

**The Rev. David M. Oddi,**  
**Pastor and LCC Director**  
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- Church Secretary  
Jean Memken  
(309) 825-5326
- Elder on Duty  
Dean Biermann
- Altar Guild on Duty  
Twyla Hazen  
Marie Walsh



Sunday School 9:00 am  
Adult Bible Class 9:00 am  
Worship 10:00 am  
(Holy Communion on 1st  
and 3rd Sundays)



**Sunday Morning Worship**  
**Service**  
**with**  
**Pastor Oddi**

KNIM 1580 AM or 95.9 FM  
10:00 am to 10:30 am

Hope Lutheran Church, 931 S. Main Street, Maryville, Mo 64468  
Phone: 660-582-3262  
Website: [www.maryvillehopelcc.org](http://www.maryvillehopelcc.org) E-mail: [hopelutheranlcms@gmail.com](mailto:hopelutheranlcms@gmail.com)



## Epiphany

Last month I gave the newsletter article over to a look at the season of Advent. This month we will look at the Epiphany season, what it is and why we recognize it. I have done some research and am taking information from three sources; I will note those before the appropriate section, starting with our LCMS source:

<https://www.lcms.org/about/beliefs/faqs/worship-and-congregational-life#epiphany>

Epiphany is from a Greek word meaning to "reveal" or "make manifest." The season of Epiphany is our time to focus on the revelation of "who" Jesus is: both true God and man.

On the Festival of Epiphany, January 6, we hear the reading of the visit of the wise men (Matt. 2:1-12). In that event, these foreigners bowed down in acknowledgment that this infant was indeed the Christ, the Son of God.

The Sunday after Epiphany we hear the story of the

Baptism of Jesus (Matt. 3:13-17). Here, God the Father confirms this man standing in the water is His beloved Son. The following Sunday we hear the story of the changing of water into wine at Cana (John 2:1-11). Through this event, Jesus revealed his glory and his disciples put their faith in him.

According to Jewish law, all males were circumcised on the eighth day — one week after their birth. We don't know the actual birth date of Jesus so we don't know the day of His circumcision either. But since we have set aside a date for observing His birth, Dec. 25, we then set aside Jan. 1 (eight days later) as the date for the naming and circumcision of Jesus (Luke 2:21). The significance of this day is that our Savior began His long ministry of submitting Himself to the Law in our place. Also, this was the first shedding of His blood, and points, in a small way, to the ultimate shedding of His blood on the cross.

<http://www.christlutheranstation.org/id36.html>

The term Epiphany means to show or to make known or to reveal. As a day in the church

calendar it remembers the wise men bringing gifts to visit Jesus. By doing so, they revealed Jesus to the world as Lord and King. Because of the influence of the Roman Catholic tradition, Epiphany in Central and South American countries (or Three Kings Day) is a time of opening Christmas presents. Some churches celebrate Epiphany as Christmas occurring on January 19th.

Some eastern churches believe that Epiphany commemorates Jesus' Baptism and link the visit of the Magi to Christmas with Epiphany occurring on January 19th.

By tradition January 6 is celebrated as Epiphany in the western world. Epiphany may be known by different names in some parts of Europe and in different languages. Some places in Europe call it Three Kings' Day. There are differences in church calendars among the Eastern Orthodox and western Catholic and Protestant. Both Christmas and Epiphany have been observed at different times in the past.

*(continued on page 2)*

## Our Sunday Sgrvants



### Organist

- 1/6 – Nancy Jenkins
- 1/13 – Nancy Jenkins
- 1/20 – Pam Shannon
- 1/27 – Pam Shannon



### Greeters

- 1/6 – Ralph & Marie Walsh
- 1/13 – Smiley Oltman
- 1/20 – Todd & Karla Roush
- 1/27 – Deanna Mandrick



### Ushers

- 1/6 – Michael Mandrick  
Dottie Biermann
- 1/13 – Michael Mandrick  
Brett Poppa
- 1/20 – Kevin Brunnert  
Caleb Brunnert
- 1/27 – Dean & Dottie  
Biermann



### Lay Readers

Pastor Oddi will be doing all the reading this month.

## Epiphany

(continued from page 1)

Most Eastern Orthodox follows the western church calendar today with the exception of some Greek Orthodox Churches in Russia and the Serbian Orthodox who follow the older calendar and celebrate Epiphany as Theophany on January 19th.

The end of the Christmas season (the Twelve Days of Christmas) is the Epiphany of Our Lord. The Christmas season is counted from December 25th until January 5th. By tradition, the Twelfth Day of Christmas is the evening of the Twelfth Night. Some cultures have this as an occasion of feasting and baking of the King's Cake. The King's Cake is part of the observance of Mardi Gras in French Catholic culture and the Southern USA. Some churches consider January 5th as the Eleventh Day of Christmas and the evening is still counted as the Twelfth Night. The beginning of the Twelfth day of Christmas would be the following day. This would make January 6th the Twelfth day of Christmas or the Epiphany.

Many Protestant churches extend the Epiphany season from January 6th until Ash Wednesday, the beginning of the season of Lent. This could include four to nine Sundays depending on the time of Easter. Roman Catholic tradition is to observe Epiphany as a single day. For Roman Catholics the Sundays following Epiphany are counted as Ordinary Time. Epiphany is celebrated in some western traditions as Transfiguration Sunday.

Epiphany usually uses the colors of Christmas (white and gold), the colors of celebration, newness and hope that mark the most sacred days of the church year. Observed as a single day, the colors are often changed after Epiphany to the colors of Ordinary Time (green or thematic sanctuary colors). This color will remain until Transfiguration Sunday (the last Sunday before the beginning of Lent) when the colors are the colors of Holy Days (white and gold). We now observe Epiphany as a time to focus on the mission of the church. It is a time of reaching out to others and showing them Jesus is the Savior of all people. It is a time of Christian brotherhood and fellowship.

Epiphany in the western Christian churches marks the end of the Christmas season or the twelve days of Christmas on January 6th. Also known as Three Kings Day in some cultures, it may be observed on January 19th.

[http://www.prayerfoundation.org/church\\_seasons\\_explained.htm](http://www.prayerfoundation.org/church_seasons_explained.htm)

Epiphany means "manifestation" and is the official Season for proclaiming the identity of Christ. Epiphany begins at sundown the day before January 6, the day commemorating the Wise Men coming to Bethlehem to worship the Baby Jesus (in the Western Church -- the Eastern Church commemorates our Lord's baptism on January 6). Epiphany is a season of worship, as the whole world follows the Wise Men to find and honor Jesus. The color of Epiphany is green. Today we tend to celebrate our Holidays (Holy Days) as individual days, and so we like to celebrate the Magi as part of the Christmas Nativity---why single them out again in early January?

In previous times (and still in some countries, such as Mexico) it was "the twelve days of Christmas" (like the Song) and then the Wise Men "arrive," and while they are "here" it is the Epiphany Season.

The Baptism of Our Lord, on the Sunday after the Epiphany.

The Presentation.

The Last Sunday after the Epiphany is Transfiguration Day.

A Blessed New Year to you all.

*God's Blessings - Pastor Dave*



- 1/7 – Kim Hullinger
- 1/18 – Louise Van Swearingen
- 1/23 – Eric Hanna
- 1/23 – Jase Johnson
- 1/23 – Judy Leyhe
- 1/24 – Angelica Bougher
- 1/25 – Jean Memken
- 1/27 – Jonathon Roush



- 1/1 – Chaim & Katie Jenkins
- 1/27 – Cliff & Virginia McNair



January 10, 2019, 5:00 pm

- Pat Bobzien
- Jean Memken



## LWML Decks the Halls

The LWML met on Tuesday, November 28, 2018 at 6:00 PM to decorate the church for the Advent/Christmas season. Some members came during the day to do a few things like prepare and hang the wreaths, hang the banners and prepare the Advent wreath.

At 7:00 PM we gathered for refreshments served by hostess Liz Mandrick, and the meeting was called to order by our President, Lesley Oddi, at 7:15 PM. German Chocolate cake and macaroons were enjoyed by all present. Members in attendance included Lesley Oddi, Liz Mandrick, Pam Myers, Mary Ann Zanzie, Marie Walsh, Marcia Droegemueller, Jean Memken, Phyllis Abbott, Virginia McNair, Twyla Hazen and Pastor Oddi.

The ingathering for this meeting was for our missionaries.

Pam Myers led the devotion entitled “Are You Ready?” Are you ready to meet your maker? In Act 1 Jesus promised to return to us to take us home with Him to heaven. During Advent we celebrate getting ready for Jesus’ return. Luke 21:28 and verses in Mark tell us to watch for signs as the end times approach. These will be like the beginning of birth pains and we need to be on guard. In Matthew 25 we are encouraged to reflect on what needs to happen personally in our lives so that we are ready for the return of our Savior, Jesus.

Birthdays - Carolyn Henry has a birthday on December 2.

Secretary’s report - Twyla Hazen presented the minutes from December 7, 2018. There were some corrections. Check 1536 should be \$150.00 rather than \$15.00. The date for the minutes should be December 7 rather than November 7. The ingathering for the December meeting is for the missionaries we support, not the Lutheran Campus Center. Twyla will correct and resend. Minutes were approved with corrections.

Correspondence – Thank you from the Lutheran Campus Center for all we do for them.

Treasurer’s report – Virginia McNair

Virginia McNair presented the report, which was then filed for review. No new bills were presented. The treasurer’s report is at the end of the minutes.

### Unfinished Business

- 1) The money allocated for the Bibles we purchased with our Love Gift monies did not cover the sizable shipping costs. However, Jean Memken arranged with our seminary student, Tim Evans, to bring them with him from St. Louis to his home in Kansas City when he came home for Thanksgiving. Jean’s daughter, Sarah, lives in Kansas City and will get them to her house so that Jean can get them on her next visit and bring them to Maryville. The members thanked Jean for making this happen and saving us postage. Jean will make bookplates for the Bibles similar to the ones in our hymnals.
- 2) Sunday School ornaments are here. Liz Mandrick will write on them “LWML 2018” and provide the Christmas cards in which to put them for each student.

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## **LWML Decks the Halls**

*(continued from page 3)*

- 3) LCC Thanksgiving meal was very nice and Lesley thanked all of the ladies for their help.
- 4) Church decorating – great job! Lesley took pictures of where different items go around the church for future reference. These will be placed in the Altar Guild binder.
- 5) The missing cooler has been returned so now we have three since we just purchased a new one to replace the missing one!
- 6) Pastor Oddi told us that it is a joy and honor to serve us in the LWML and he is thankful for the opportunity.
- 7) The LED candles for the service on Christmas Eve are here and look nice. The candles were purchased using the general funds of the church.

### New Business

- 1) A motion was made by Pam Myers and seconded by Liz Mandrick to present gifts to the church staff – Pastor Oddi \$50, Jean Memken, Church secretary \$25, Church cleaner, Ashley Riley \$25. Motion passed.
- 2) We have orders for 19 poinsettias. Liz Mandrick has a BIG poinsettia that she will bring in for the center one on the altar.
- 3) Graduation reception for university student, Aaron Schmidt, is all set. The LCC will coordinate. A cake will be ordered from HyVee as Dottie is unable to provide one this time. Marie will get the mints and nuts. Lisa Ewing will make the punch.

Mite Box devotion - Jean Memken presented information about the July focus mission grant which was for “Training Lutheran Middle Eastern Missionaries”. She did more research and found that Islam is the fastest growing religion due in large part to the birth rate. There is also a growing rate of conversion from Islam to Christianity. Iranian converts to Christianity from Islam is estimated at 100,000 over the last 4 decades. Two reasons for this are 1) oppression from dictatorships and 2) refugees fleeing to Europe and Canada. Many converted and were baptized in Lutheran churches in Germany. The Mite money will go to purchase equipment so that local missionaries can be trained via the Internet and on-line classrooms.

### Next Meeting:

- 1) Tuesday, January 8, 2019 at 6:00 pm to “undecorated” the church.
- 2) Hostess is Marcia Droegemueller
- 3) Devotion leader is Phyllis Abbott
- 4) Ingathering is for the Ministry Center
- 5) Shepherd’s kitchen December 13 is Marilyn Bettis and Phyllis Abbott
- 6) Shepherd’s kitchen January 10 is Pat Bobzien and Jean Memken

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM.

*Respectfully submitted, Twyla Hazen, Secretary*

## **Caroling, Caroling Through the Snow**

Okay, it didn’t really snow, but that did not dampen the spirits of our Hope Lutheran Choir and LCC Students as they made their way around town to sing Christmas carols to the residents of Parkdale Manor, Oak Pointe retirement community, and the Bethesda home. The festivities actually started after choir practice on December 9 when Choir Director Hope Pappert and her family provided a wonderful pizza lunch for the choir. Pam Myers brought cookies and brownies for dessert. Then the choir met up with the LCC students and traveled around town sharing their musical talents and sharing the Good News about Jesus’ birth. A great time was had by all, and everywhere we went, our audiences were most appreciative. Thanks to all who participated in what seems to now be an annual event for our choir and LCC students.



*Members of the Hope Lutheran Choir and LCC Students sing carols at Oak Pointe.*



Dear Hope Lutheran Family,



Today I am writing to express my gratitude for your love and support throughout my time in Hopeville. I have not quite finished my college career, but pursuing a degree in Elementary Education has landed me in a Kansas City 6th grade classroom for my final semester as a student teacher. So unfortunately, I will be seeing you all a lot less next semester.

Let me back up a step. I'm Stephanie Borgman, a senior here at Northwest Missouri State University, pursuing a degree in Elementary Education with a minor in Psychology. Yes, I do think I'm better than the upper elementary kiddos, even maybe some middle schoolers best. Once I graduate on May 1st (super pumped about that being on my resume :D), I will be marrying the love of my life, Ryan Cook, on June 1st. From there, we intend to stay in Creston, Iowa where his family is from.

Over nearly four years with you, I am thankful to have had and continue to have my Hope Lutheran and Lutheran Campus Center Families support throughout my college years. Through stressful weeks, roller coasters of emotions, and great days too, your love and support has sustained me. The congregation gave me a family and the Lutheran Campus Center brought me long friends and countless memories to fill my heart. It is impossible to forget our quirky group that consisted of some scavenger hunts, an LCC Christmas album, paint fights, many trips to Florida, a bonfire or two, some Old Maid, and most importantly, God-centered fellowship every week from home.

So I am thankful for everything that your congregation and the LCC has done for me. It is my sincerest intentions to stop in from time to time, especially right before graduation, but just in case life gets in the way, thank you.

God's Blessings,

Stephanie Borgman

## Aaron Schmidt Graduates

One of our LCC Students, Aaron Schmidt, graduated from Northwest in December. Aaron has been a familiar figure here at Hope, and has shared his talents to support our church in many ways. He is gifted musically, and has played the piano and sung several solos during the worship service. He helped with the Soup and Chili Supper this past year, and using his artistic abilities, he decorated our Mite Box Church with stained glass windows and with the LWML logo on the roof. We will certainly miss him and greatly appreciate the many ways he served at Hope.

Aaron graduated with a degree in history and plans to pursue a graduate degree in the fall. He was not sure where he would be going, but planned to apply to several schools. We held a reception for Aaron on December 9 after the worship service. Congratulations, Aaron, and God Blessings on all your future endeavors!



## What Child is This?

On December 16, we had a wonderful celebration of Christmas here at Hope, the highlight of which was the Children’s Christmas Program entitled, “What Child is This?” The children led us song and told the Christmas story through recitations, Finger plays, and singing. They did a terrific job!

Following the service, each child received a Christmas bag of treats from Education Committee and a Christmas ornament from the LWML.

Then about 70 members and friends gathered for a congregational potluck and Christmas celebration in the church lower level. The food was, as always, delicious and plentiful! The tables were festively decorated, thanks to Jean Memken and Jonathan Rogers. And the fellowship was so good that nobody thought to take any pictures of the event. It seems everyone had a great time!

After the potluck, the church was quickly cleaned up and put back in order by many wonderful volunteers. Thank you to all of you who stuck around and helped. What a wonderful way to celebrate Christmas as our Hope Lutheran family.—jm



*The children of our Sunday School, ready to perform “What Child is This?” Christmas Program.*



*The children sing while Sunday School teacher Twyla Hazen (left) and music director Hope Pappert (right) look on.*



*Our youngest Sunday School students share the Christmas Story through an action rhyme.*

## Back to Normal

For many years, I worked as a professor at Illinois State University, which is located in Normal, Illinois. The university was founded as a teacher training college, or a “Normal School” because it trained people in the norms of curriculum and pedagogy (teaching skills). Where I worked, the school came first and then the town grew around it, so they called the town Normal to coincide with the normal school it surrounded.

As you can imagine, there are many puns that have been developed over the years about living and working in Normal. A popular pizza chain actually did a series of ads in the town trying to sell the idea that their pizza was “anything but normal.” The university once had a fundraising campaign they titled, “Redefining Normal.” And of course, our students would endure, “well, you better get ‘back to Normal!’” after every semester or summer break.

Back to Normal. I supposed that could describe these days for many of us after the holidays. We have had several weeks of parties and presents and, hopefully, special worship services. Our homes were decked out with decorations, and many of us hosted out of town family members. There

were special meals, lots of wonderful cookies and other tasty treats. But now that is pretty much over. Now it’s back to normal.

When we consider the very first Christmas, there was nothing really normal about it. Imagine how Mary and Joseph felt on that first Christmas evening. Angels had visited both of them. They knew they held the Son of God in their arms. He was born in a stable of all places. And just when the excitement of the birthing process had died down, a bunch of shepherds show up, telling how angels had visited them, too. No, not at all normal.

But then the reality of daily living probably set in and Mary and Joseph attempted to get back to normal. Their son needed to be presented at the temple and the rite of purification had to be performed. Every Jewish family did that. But what happened? There was Simeon who met them at the temple and began prophesying about their baby. How did he know? And what did he mean when he said to Mary that a “sword would pierce your own soul, too?” And then came Anna, who upon seeing baby Jesus, began shouting to everyone that the Messiah had come. Definitely not normal.

The encounter with Simeon and Anna was unique, but at

least they were Jewish. Their own kind. But imagine trying to live your simple and quiet lives and suddenly there are visitors from halfway across the known world at your door. And they didn’t just come to say hi, they worshipped your baby son. They presented him with precious gifts. They told you they found him by following a star. Life for this simple Jewish couple kept getting farther and farther from normal.

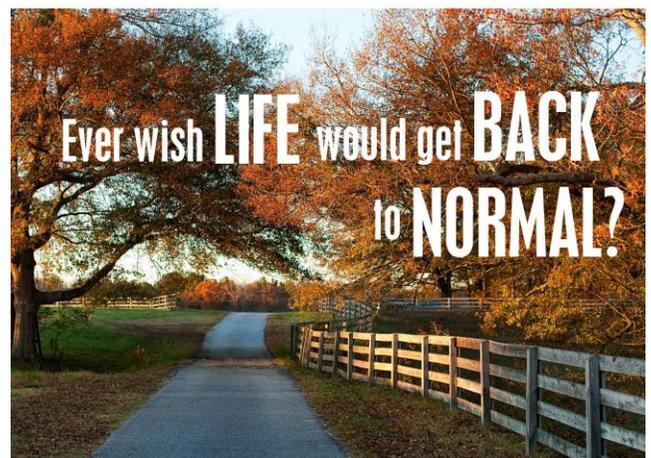
What happened next? Another angel, this time telling Joseph to get out of town. Go to Egypt, right away. Fleeing from your home in the dead of night - not exactly the norm for anyone. And how were they treated once they got to Egypt? We don’t really know, but when you think of how the refugees from war torn countries are being treated these days, Mary and Joseph might have

experienced the same suspicion and prejudice. They were refugees, needing to live in a foreign land. Not normal now and definitely not normal back then.

And, of course, you know the rest of the story. Life never really did get back to normal for Mary and Joseph. How could it? They were living with the Christ, the son of the living God.

So where does that leave us as God’s children? Yes, we can say our lives get back to normal after the holidays, but not really. Because we have Jesus living with us, too, in our hearts. The Holy Spirit is present in our lives 24/7. That might not seem all that special, but it is. If you don’t think so, imagine your life without Christ. No, our lives are not at all normal, and we can be thankful for that.

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## Back to Normal

*(continued from page 7)*

But what does the Christian life entail, if not normalcy. I hope you live a life of worship and praise and thankfulness, day in and out, because that is what being a Christian is all about. It's not "here's my life and a part of that life is worship (like on Sunday morning). A Christian's entire life IS worship and praise and service. No matter what you do, think of it as an act of worship to a God who loved you so much, He sent His own son as a poor baby to redeem you. Your work? It's an act of worship, praising God for giving you the skills to earn a living. Your recreation? A chance to marvel about the environment God has given you to enjoy the things you love to do. Your daily living? A time to give thanks to God for the basic necessities - food, clothing and shelter. Your income? Giving your tithes and offerings to the Lord is an act of worship, too, showing God you love him and trust him to care for you. That is

the Christian life, and there is nothing normal about it.

So if you do that - have an attitude of praise and worship and service to God in all you do, how will others see you? Well, not normal. Maybe a little crazy. If you try to share your faith, they might think you are a little dangerous. That is certainly how Christ was considered when he walked the earth. He himself warned that Christians would be rejected, persecuted, and considered dangerous. And just think of the lives of the apostles - Peter, John, and especially Paul - and you can see what you might be in for. Normal? Not even close. Fulfilling? Yes, in every way. Praise God that our lives in Christ are anything but normal here on earth, and will be absolutely extraordinary when we get to heaven. Make this the year you really live your life in and with Christ beside you every day in everything you do. You will never want to go back to normal again. A Blessed New Year to all!—jm



**H**ere are some of the things that were discussed at the last Church Council Meeting.

**Trustees:** Larry Abbott reported they have been working on snow and ice removal in the parking lot.

**Finance:** Mike Mandrick reported that he will be distributing the Time and Talent Sheets. Also, the 2019 envelopes will be distributed to members in their mailboxes at church.

**Education:** Karla Roush announced the Children's Christmas Service will be on December 16 with a congregational potluck following.

**Campus Relations:** Pam Myers reported there will be one female living at the LCC in the spring. The Board will be revisiting the fellowship dinners. They will continue working to identify a campus center director.

No report from Elders, Evangelism, and Long-Range Planning.

**Old Business:** The net income from the Soup/Chili Supper is \$2,208.27. The check needs to be presented to the Ministry Center for Energy Assistance.

**New Business:** The Council discussed and took action on staff Christmas gifts.

Treasurer Royce Duncan received notice that two of our certificates of deposit had matured. They are being changed from a 12-month at a 0.4% rate of return to a 30-month with a \$2.25% rate of return. We need to locate the original certificates in order to take them to the bank where they can be electronically digitized and saved.



## New Mercies

**E**veryone seems to have at least one resolution that seems impossible to keep. And that can become very discouraging. The prophet Jeremiah, who had his own reasons to feel down, wrote, "The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness" (Lamentations 3:22-23, NRSV).

God refuses to give up on us. When we lose hope, when we fail and fall short, his mercy never runs out. Tomorrow is full of promise and our Lord's unceasing love.



# A fresh start

Baptism is a blessing because it changes us and gives us hope.

Directions: Write the boxed letters in the squares below. Then unscramble those letters to form two words that complete the Bible verse and represent the gift of baptism.

We were therefore buried with him  
 through baptism into death in order that,  
 just as Christ was raised from the dead  
 through the glory of the Father,  
 we too may live a \_\_\_\_\_.

Romans 6:4, NIV

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Answer: f i e l e w n y n e w l i f e

## An Interesting Deduction ...

Pastor Schneider answers the phone.

"Hello, is this Pastor Schneider?"

"It is."

"This is the IRS. Can you help us?"

"I can."

"Do you know a Ted Wolfe?"

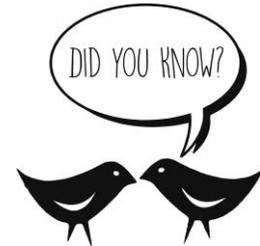
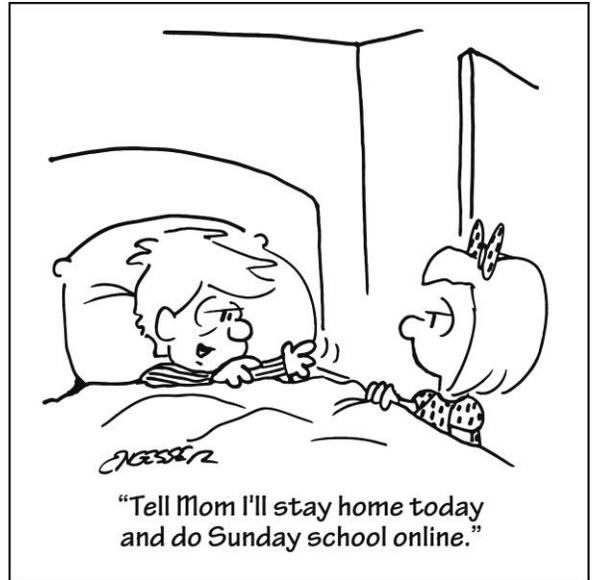
"I do."

"Is he a member of your congregation?"

"He is."

"Did he donate \$10,000 to the church?"

"He will."



-- **Jaclyn Pappert** was named "Athlete of the Week" by the Nodaway News Leader for excellence on the basketball court. She plays on the Jefferson Eagles girls' basketball team. Jaclyn is pictured to the right participating in the Elk's Hoop Shoot free throw contest where she placed third. Congratulations, Jaclyn!



Jaclyn Pappert



Vanessa Pappert

-- **Vanessa Pappert** (pictured left) got to show off her jump shot in a feature article in the Maryville Daily Forum about the Jefferson girls' basketball team. Way to go, Vanessa!