

“After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was.”

-Matthew 2:9

Friends, Happy New Year! I write this letter to you still feeling a bit of afterglow from our Epiphany service yesterday. It's a bit bittersweet for me because as I begin 2025 with you, I also begin our last year of ministry together. So yesterday was our last Epiphany together. I'll miss the starry ceiling of Emanuel, reflecting our journey together toward the light of Christ. I'll miss asking each of you your star words on the way out of worship and waiting to see who has found the baby in their king cake! But like every year, I came away from yesterday in the tradition of the Wise Men, with a star word to guide me.

My word for this year is “order”. Already God has let me know through this word that we need not worry. As long as we continue to follow God's light drawing us ever closer to Christ and his teachings, our heavenly father, who has already ordered all the stars in the sky, will keep the church running according to HIS plan. We may not know the place where God is leading, that is where our faith keeps us steady, but we do know that nothing can separate us from God's love and holy guidance if we keep our focus on God's word and God's son.

As we embark on this journey of “order” together, I am reminded that even in times of transition and change, there is a divine plan guiding us. Just as the Wise Men followed the star to find the Christ child, we too are led by the light of faith, bringing us to new and wondrous places.

This year, let us focus on bringing order to our lives and our community. Let us organize our hearts and minds to better serve one another and the mission of our church. We will face challenges, but with the steadfastness and clarity that “order” brings, we can overcome them together.

I encourage each of you to reflect on your star word for this year. Let it be a beacon that guides you through moments of uncertainty, a reminder of the purpose and direction we seek. Together, we will continue to grow and support one another, shining brightly in our faith and fellowship.

May this year be filled with the blessings of order, bringing peace, clarity, and a renewed sense of purpose to us all and may the love of Jesus light our way.

Blessings,
Pastor Gayle

P.S. - If you didn't get your star word this year, let me know and I will make sure you receive one.