

The Monthly Herald January 2021

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Well, the year of our Lord 2020 is behind us. Many of us are glad to see the past year in the rear view mirror. However, I think it wise to count the blessings that we still enjoyed even in the midst of all that took place. Blessings still abound; for me, these are some of the blessings I have counted:



- ❖ A church family that continued to worship together either in person or online.
- ❖ The ability to go on a couple of trips with the closest of family, including going to see my mom in Colorado!
- ❖ The fact that Pastor Noah is still with us here at St. Paul's as I write this letter!
- ❖ Seeing people respond in loving and caring ways with all that has taken place!
- ❖ The blessing of medical technology coming up with a vaccine in less than a year!
- ❖ Easter was still Easter and Christmas was still Christmas even in this unusual year!

Yes, it is always good to continue to count the blessings.

A couple of hymns that I have loved to sing at New Year's Eve services over the years are "Abide with Me" and "O God, our Help in Ages Past." Some words among the stanzas have always been a blessing to my heart. In the hymn "Abide with Me" we sing: **"Change and decay in all around I see; O Thou who changest not, abide with me."**

We live in a changing world, a world subject to sickness and disease, decay and death. Look in the mirror and you will see the changes over the years in your body. Look at the world, especially this last year, and you will observe changing times that unsettle us. Yet, we have a God that never changes. Jesus Christ is the same, yesterday, today, and forever (Hebrews 13:8). This is an anchor for our souls and our very lives.

In the hymn "O God, our Help . . ." we sing: **"O God, our help in ages past, Our hope for years to come, Be Thou our guard while troubles last, And our eternal home!"**

We worship and trust in a God who brings us hope and who IS our hope. I have great hopes for answered prayers in 2021. I have hope that we will see beyond many of the troubles of 2020. I have great hope of seeing our youngest son, Joseph, commit his love and his very self to Alyssa Kagay in holy marriage. I have the hope for greater normalcy.

Yet, above all, we all have eternal hope in our God. He guards and guides us while troubles last. He is our eternal home and is preparing a place for each of us for all eternity. Yes, we enter into 2021 with hope in the almighty!

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Dear Friends in Christ,

Looking into the future and believing in a God who promises *immeasurably more than we can ever ask or imagine* (Eph. 3:20) we entered into our 3 year ministry expansion campaign “Generations United in Mission” that will provide additional resources over and above regular offerings to provide for the future of St. Paul’s Lutheran Church and School.

The “Generations United in Mission” campaign will bless the mission of our Church and School in that:

- Funding will be provided to build a playground.
- Funding will be provided to have a much needed parking lot.
- It will allow for the reduction or elimination of our debt.

Campaign goals:

- **Celebration Goal:** \$800,000 - Playground and Debt Reduction
- **Challenge Goal:** \$1,200,000 – Playground and Parking Lot and Debt Reduction.
- **Transformation Goal:** \$1,600,000 – Playground, Parking Lot and Debt Elimination.

We would like to thank the many brothers and sisters in Christ that have already stepped up and made their commitments. If you haven’t made your commitment yet, we ask that you prayerfully consider doing so. The future of St. Paul’s Lutheran Church and School depends on all of us.

On January 9th and 10th will be the Commitment Dedication and First Gifts. We will have an update on the campaign. We hope that you can attend.

With the help of God’s people, this campaign will be a success!

We are St. Paul’s; we are Generations United in Mission!

God bless,

Gary Knight Dave Ross
Campaign Co-Directors



The counsel of the LORD stands forever,
the plans of His heart to all generations.
Psalm 33:11

Bible Studies

Men's Bible Breakfast – The Book of Zechariah

During the months of January and February, we *will* finish up the Book of Zechariah. These are some very important prophecies about Christ and the work of redemption He has accomplished and will fulfill in all its fullness when He comes again in glory. Studying Old Testament prophecies that were written centuries before the birth of Christ helps build our faith and trust in God, in His Word, and in His faithfulness.

We gather shortly before 7am in the fellowship hall; 79th street doors are open. In the month of January we will meet on the 9th and the 23rd of the month. *We are now preparing breakfast; those who are comfortable . . . come hungry. We will also practice social distancing.* We have a great time of fellowship, praying together, eating together, encouraging one another, and growing in our knowledge of God and His Word. All men of the congregation are welcome; you can even bring a friend.

Sunday Morning Adult Bible Class

In the New Year of 2021 we are going to begin a new study of the Book of Romans. This epistle penned by St. Paul has been called: “The Magna Carta of the Christian Faith.” Study this book and you will grow in faith and conviction of many important doctrines of the Christian Faith. Before starting that study, we will be reviewing the course we just finished: “Every One His Witness.” We are gathering in the Fellowship Hall between services at 9:15a.m. on Sunday mornings. Here is the schedule for the month of January:

- January 3: Final Review of “Every One His Witness”
- January 10: Introduction – Paul’s Letter to the Romans
- January 17: NO Class – Pastor Bender has shoulder surgery scheduled for January 15.
- January 24 & 31: Romans, Chapter 1

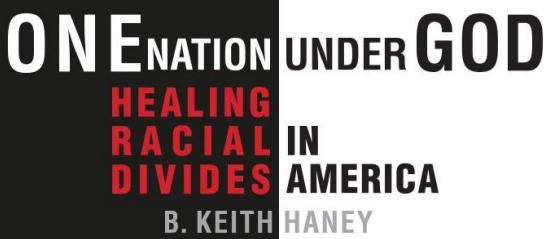
The apostle Peter writes this at the end of his second epistle, *“But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.”* The only way to grow in the knowledge of Christ is to study His Word. Some people say, “I don’t want to go to Bible study because I don’t *know enough of God’s Word.*” That’s the reason to come. Let’s kick off 2021 by returning to Bible class!

Thursday Morning Bible Class – Denominational Differences

On the first Thursday in January, we will be finishing up our study on Denominational Differences, by taking a look at the differences in the three main Lutheran Bodies: LCMS, ELCA, and WELS. Starting Thursday, January 14, Pastor Noah will begin a study called “One Nation Under God – Healing the Racial Divide in America.”

Racism is sin. Racism, unfortunately, is part of American history and is still part of our society today. God

desires us to live at peace with one another and in this study, written by Rev. Keith Haney, we will discover what it means to be the people of God when it comes to relating to people of different backgrounds and cultures so that we reflect the love of Christ and do our part in healing the racial divides in America. Join Pastor



Noah on Thursday mornings from 10:00 A.M. – 11:30 A.M. to learn more!

Widows Lunch

All widows of the congregation are invited to Red Lobster on 76th Street on Wednesday January 13th (weather permitting) at 11:00am. Please contact Judy Hurst (414-543-5839) if you would like to attend.



Quilter's Patch

January 4th and 18th at 9:00am in the Fellowship Hall.

If you have any questions regarding the quilting group, please contact Dawn Ziolecki at 414-841-6097 or via email at dzwolf2012@gmail.com

Ladies Guild

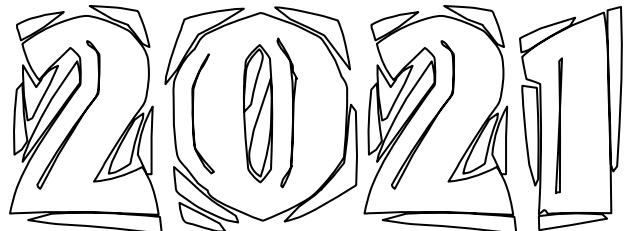
Thank you to all who have been bringing items for our mitten basket. There is still yarn in the mail room. We will accept socks, mittens, gloves and scarves. The Mite box will be in the narthex the first weekend of every month. This money is sent to LWML for their mission projects. It is also a small way to thank God for his blessings.



Group Discipleship Hour is Back!



- - **When? Every Sunday! @ 9:15**
 - **Where? Gymnasium (please wear a mask)**
 - **Come join for a time of friendship, learning, and community!**
-



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Access Facebook for church and school updates, video announcements, school chapels, and devotions!



ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN
CHURCH & SCHOOL

Visit our Website! www.splcwa.org

Support our ministry through online giving! Stay up-to-date on our activities!

FROM THE ELDERS:

On Sunday January 10th after the 10:30 service, there will be a small gathering with communion for anyone interested. Please call the church office to sign up.



New Year's Resolution

Very Simple ---- easy to do.

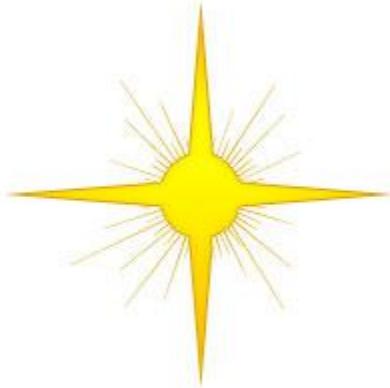
Start the day with God

End your day with God

Very Simple ---- easy to do.

Elaine Lemke

Music Notes



It is now the season of Epiphany, or the season of revealing.

The end of January will bring National Lutheran Schools Week. We hope to share our St. Paul's school students singing songs through a video on January 24th, the start of our week of celebration. We look forward to sharing our theme "Sent to Serve" through these songs.

Musical Opportunities:

Come be a part of one or more of our musical groups:
Wednesdays prior to Praise Service Sundays - 7:00 PM

Balcony - Praise Team

Thursdays - 6:10 PM - Balcony - Handbell Choir

Instrumentalists - You are welcome to enhance our worship any weekend or special service.
Contact Michelle at: michelle@splcwa.org ; 414-541-6250 ext 3013; text 414-552-4938

St. Paul's

I've been meaning to send a card of thanks for being your tenor for almost 30 years. You've always been so nice to me. If you see any of those Haas boys (Jim Scott, John) give them a heads up from me. They were the best. Pastor Noah and Bender - always listened to my little plights. Thank you.

I have adjusted well in NC. It's a beautiful city with flowers, trees and very friendly people. I can't get out to meet new friends yet but keep myself busy. My daughter + family are great to be with.

Special thank you to Mary who was always so polite when I called.



Warm holiday wishes to you and yours.

If I get to WI next Spring I'll stop by to say hello.

May you all have a blessed Christmas and New year.

Margaret Bentz

School News

“See, I am sending an angel ahead of you to guard you along the way and to bring you to the place I have prepared.” Exodus 23:20

I sometimes think New Year's Day comes at the wrong time of year. I'm usually facing a bunch of tasks left over from the old year, like taking down the Christmas tree and putting away all the yard decorations, writing thank-you notes and dealing with decisions about what to do with that stack of Christmas cards. Throw them away? Save the ones with nice pictures? Then there's the thought of trying to catch up with all the schoolwork I had put off during the holidays...I'm behind before the New Year even gets started!

“Who can think about new beginnings or setting inspirational goals in the midst of old problems and concerns?”

On one of my recent trips to Hobby Lobby I saw a framed sign that said:

Trust Me. I have everything under control.

~Jesus~

As I thought about that sign, those words began to change my frame of mind. If I needed something to help me carry my old concerns into the New Year, I'd just found it ... the determination to face each day's concerns, trusting in the words of this promise from the Source of all comfort and strength. He was with me in the past, and He promises to be with me and with each of us in the New Year as well.

Father, each day in this new year, please help me remember that You are in control of everything. Amen

And our God has certainly been with St. Paul's Lutheran School this crazy, past year. He has guided and protected us every step of the way and promises to do that in that in the future as well.

Happy New Year!

“See, I am sending an angel ahead of you to guard you along the way and to bring you to the place I have prepared.” Exodus 23:20



St. Paul's Child Care Center is located at 7835 W. Grant Street and provides care for children ages 6 weeks – 14 years of age. The hours of operation are from 6:00 AM – 6:00 PM (Monday-Friday). Our goal is for parents to leave with “peace of mind” knowing their child's needs are being met and learning is happening. Please call Amy Puechner for a tour (414-430-2542) or email amy@splcwa.org



St. Paul's Daycare continues to grow, and with that we are looking for donations of new or gently used toys! Our greatest needs are age appropriate toys for 6 weeks to age 5. We also would appreciate board games and card games for ages 4-10. You may drop off any donations at the ECC during school hours. Thank you for helping us help the children in our care to grow, explore and learn with new things!

Sharing God's Bounty

Forgetting What Is Behind

"Forget about it." It's a phrase we may say to ourselves when we don't want to face up to something. Perhaps we give it in the form of advice to someone who's complaining about an offense he's received. According to Paul, it's a good thing to do. It's counsel he followed himself: "*Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus*" (Phil. 3:13b-14).

Paul had a past anyone would want to forget. In his Pharisaical zeal, he had caused the imprisonment, persecution, and even death of many who were followers of the Way. All that changed, we know, when he himself faced Jesus on the road to Damascus.

Yet, from our reading of Scripture, we know he didn't "forget what was behind." He brought it up many times as he explained the change that Jesus had brought about in his life to the other apostles and as he testified in the highest courts of the day.

Like Paul, we can't forget about our past sins – and maybe that's good, as long as we remember that Christ has forgotten them! Remembrance of our sins serves the purpose of keeping us humble and grateful, aware that we walk in God's ways only as we rely on him to lead us, thankful that he forgives all sin, past, present, and future. Then we are not encumbered by guilt (1 John 3:20). We can "*[forget] what's behind*" and "*press on toward the goal*" that Christ has lain out before us as we serve him with all the gifts he so graciously gives us.

We begin a new year in God's grace. We also begin each day, sometimes each moment, as newly forgiven, cleansed stewards equipped through Word and Sacrament to fulfill God's purposes for our lives.

Our own growth and the growth of our church depend on the willingness of us all to invest that talent for others. As a member of your church, you are called to share in all aspects of its life. Membership is responsibility - the response to the call to ministry, and service. To be a church member is to answer that call with time and talent.

St. Paul's Korn Scholarship Committee,

I am thankful beyond words at the support and generosity that has been given to me. This incredible gift is greatly appreciated as I continue to work toward serving our God through my vocation after college. Without such a strong, supportive family at St. Paul's, I would not be where I am today. Thank you for blessing me in this way.

Rachel Osell

SERVING THE LORD IN
UGANDA

NEWS FROM RACHEL MEYER



Fall 2020

Email:
Rachel.Meyer@lcms.org



P7 students sing hymns in chapel
Photo Credit: LCU Rev. Benard Mwesigwa

SCHOOLS

As of October 15, students in graduating classes at each level of education have been allowed to resume meeting in person. This means students in 7th grade and students in the final year of high school have returned to classes as they prepare for graduation exams in March 2021. Beginning with this limited number of students at school will help the government determine the best way to safely handle the rest of the classes in 2021.

We thank God for this opportunity for students to continue their studies and to hear God's Word in our Lutheran Schools.



To be added to or removed from this mailing list, send an email message to Rachel.Meyer@lcms.org with the word ADD or REMOVE in the subject line.

*"I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the Lord!"
Psalm 122:1*

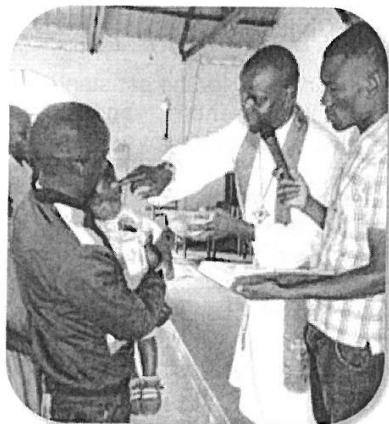
Joy in the House of the Lord

There is much rejoicing in the house of the Lord as Christians in Uganda are able to gather for worship services again.

After nearly seven months of restrictions, the government in Uganda allowed congregations to resume worshiping in person in mid-October, with limited capacity and with standard operating procedures in place.



A choir sings for worship in Masindi
Photo Credit: LCMS Missionary Megan Mantey

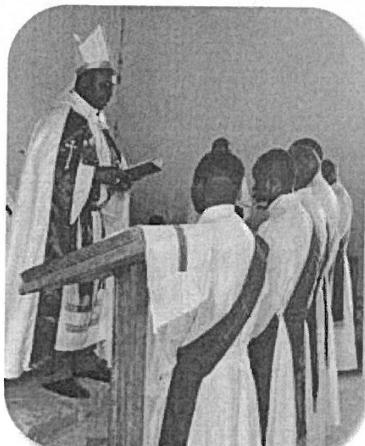


A child is baptized in Nakabango
Photo Credit: LCU Rev. Benard Mwesigwa

We thank God for His continued work through the Lutheran Church of Uganda (LCU) to spread the Gospel. As Christians gather around His Word and Sacraments, God faithfully provides the strength and nourishment His people need in these challenging times.

Thank you for your continued prayers for this ministry and for all who serve here.

In November, we celebrated as twelve seminarians were commissioned to begin their vicarage year. These students are in their third year of study at the Lutheran Theological College Uganda. We praise God for His ongoing work of raising up new leaders in the church.



Vicars are commissioned in Naigobya
Photo Credit: LCMS Missionary Megan Mantey

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

The Lord to bring more people in Uganda and around the world to saving faith in Christ

The seminarians starting their vicarage

Peace in the upcoming presidential elections in Uganda

Continued restoration of health for me

Health and safety of people around the world

GIVE THANKS FOR:

The opening of churches in Uganda

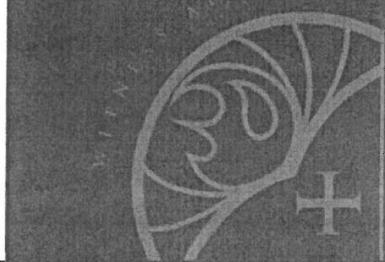
The partial opening of schools in Uganda

God's grace and faithfulness in all times

The many congregations, schools, and individuals who pray for, encourage, and support me

YOU ARE IN MY PRAYERS.

I regularly pray for the individuals and congregations who support me by name. Please share any specific prayers I can bring before the Lord for you.



Grace and Thanks

This fall, I have made a trip back to the States to get some medical care. God's grace and faithfulness abound, and I have so much to be thankful for.

- I thank God for His gracious hand of healing and the care He provides through medical workers.
- I thank God for the fellowship and support He provides through family, friends, and coworkers.
- I thank God for friends in Uganda who are helping to care for things while I am away.
- I thank God for the prayers, encouragement, and support God provides through the body of Christ – YOU!
- I thank God for the constancy of His presence and the assurance of His love.

In the midst of the challenges and uncertainties facing our world today, God continues to faithfully provide for our every need, often in ways we cannot anticipate. Resting in His grace, we can truly give thanks in all circumstances.

↔↔↔↔↔

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.”
-1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

*Humbly in the Lord’s service,
-Rachel Meyer*

Kids' Corner

Holidays

People in both America and Uganda look forward to celebrating holidays. Some holidays are the same in the two countries, and others are different.

See if you can match the following holidays with the dates they are celebrated.

- 1. July 4
- 2. October 9
- 3. November 26 (in 2020)
- 4. December 25
- 5. December 26

- a. Independence Day (Uganda)
- b. Independence Day (America)
- c. Thanksgiving (America)
- d. Boxing Day (Uganda)
- e. Christmas (Uganda and America)

Answers: 1b, 2a, 3c, 4e, 5d



To support the LCMS through the work of Rachel Meyer, you may send a tax-deductible gift to:

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
P.O. Box 66861
St. Louis, MO 63166-6861

<https://missioncentral.us/meyer/>

Or through:

Mission Central
40718 Highway E-16
Mapleton, IA 51034

Make checks payable to
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On the memo line, include
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Gifts can also be given securely online at
www.lcms.org/givenow/meyerr

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SERVING THE LORD

ALL OVER ASIA

NEWS FROM THE FERRY FAMILY



Advent/Christmas 2020

Education in the Luther Education Building

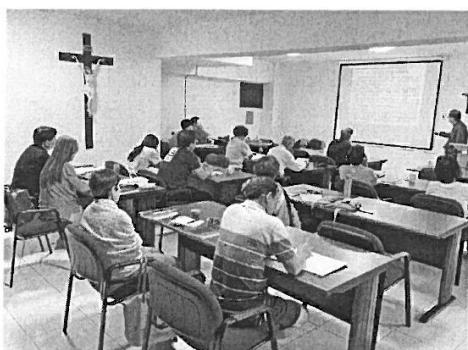
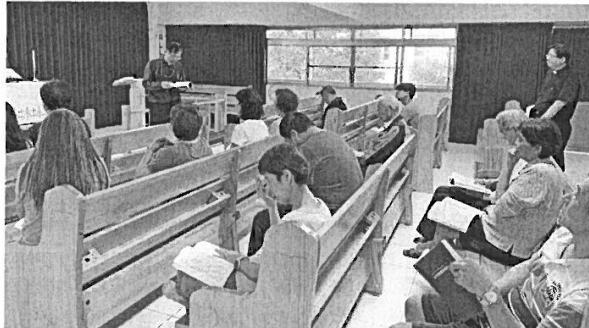


It is typical here to remove your shoes when entering a house, or a room in a building. My children often remark that they know where I am in our building by where they find my shoes. "Dad's inside; his shoes are sitting there outside the door!"

So when a scene like the one to the right greets us walking past the building's chapel, we know that we have a number of guests who are inside. On this instance (below), it was the second of an eight-session class being taught by the Rev. Dr. Joseph Lu of our partner church in Taiwan, the China Evangelical Lutheran Church.

Dr. Lu is a wonderful partner who lives and works in northern Taiwan, but comes down here to Chiayi once a week to teach his "Introduction to Lutheran Theology" class for people in this part of the country. He chose our facility because it was suited to the purpose, and because he treasures the connection we have between CELC and LCMS and wanted to highlight that fellowship.

This particular class session was dealing with liturgy and worship, and the importance of gathering for corporate worship on Sundays. So he started this class in our Luther Building chapel: he was using the chapel and the layout as a chance to demonstrate why Christians gather corporately, which is primarily to receive from the Lord in His Word and Sacraments. What a joy to be of service to our neighbors in hosting this class, and to have people recognize the utility of what you have allowed us to build here.



It's good to see our facility being used for its intended purpose, even in these days of pandemic, lockdown, and travel restriction. Your LCMS missionaries are generally prohibited from travel these days, not by rules, but by closed borders. All countries in Asia are still closed to tourist travel, but we're busy working in the countries where the Lord has placed us through you, His church. Thank you for the great blessing of being your servants to take the Lord's Word to the people of Asia in general, and of Taiwan in particular.

We are enjoying the Season of Advent here in this place, and the lower temperatures and humidity that come with this time of year. We are gathering for weekly Advent Evening Prayer here in our chapel, which is an opportunity to gather with the teachers of Concordia Middle School, as well as continuing to be an example to our community. God grant us all a joyful Advent, as we celebrate His coming in the past, in the present, and in the future as He has promised.



PLEASE PRAY FOR:

- *The new little Ferry to be born in April of 2021.*
- *Ways to use the upcoming Christmas season to speak faithfully the saving Word of Jesus.*
- *The new Christians around us: that the Lord would sustain and strengthen them.*

GIVE THANKS FOR:

- *The relationships in our vocations, for the good we are blessed to give and receive.*
- *Our healthy and growing children, who love where we live and know they're safe and secure.*

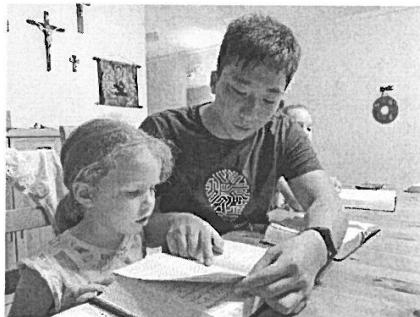
To subscribe to this newsletter, visit our newsletter web page: ferrys.asia/newsletter

The big news for the Ferry Family is that we are one member larger! After several painful miscarriages, the Ferry family is excited to announce that we have a new member. Cheryl is currently about five months along, and is due around Easter 2021. The six older Ferry kids are already picking out names and guessing whether they have a new brother or sister! Caleb isn't holding his breath for a fellow brother!

Cheryl's been feeling very good so far, and we plan to deliver here in Chiayi at a local women and children clinic. What a blessing to have good friends here in town, who can help guide us through this experience and ensure that our questions are answered. If all works out well, we are hoping to bring the whole family (with the new little one) back for visits in the USA this coming summer of 2021.



The whole family rejoices at the relationships we are blessed to have in this incredible place called Taiwan. It's been a joy lately to get better acquainted with a young man who grew up in southern Taiwan, and has recently returned to Chiayi after completing college. He's a regular fixture at our local congregation, but is a first-generation Christian: his parents still do not believe in Jesus, and are not excited about him being one, either. So he receives no support from them in his Christian identity.



He gathers with us at least once each week for family devotions and conversation: he helps us with our Chinese, and we bring him into our family. It's a blessing for all of us together. Thank you for allowing us to be of service in this way!

God bless all of you for your continued friendship, support, and love.

*- Your Servants and partners in Asia, the Ferry Family
Charles, Cheryl, Caleb, Caitlin, Carissa, Cassandra, Chloe, Charlotte, and C*

To support the LCMS through the work of The Ferry Family, you may send a tax-deductible gift to:



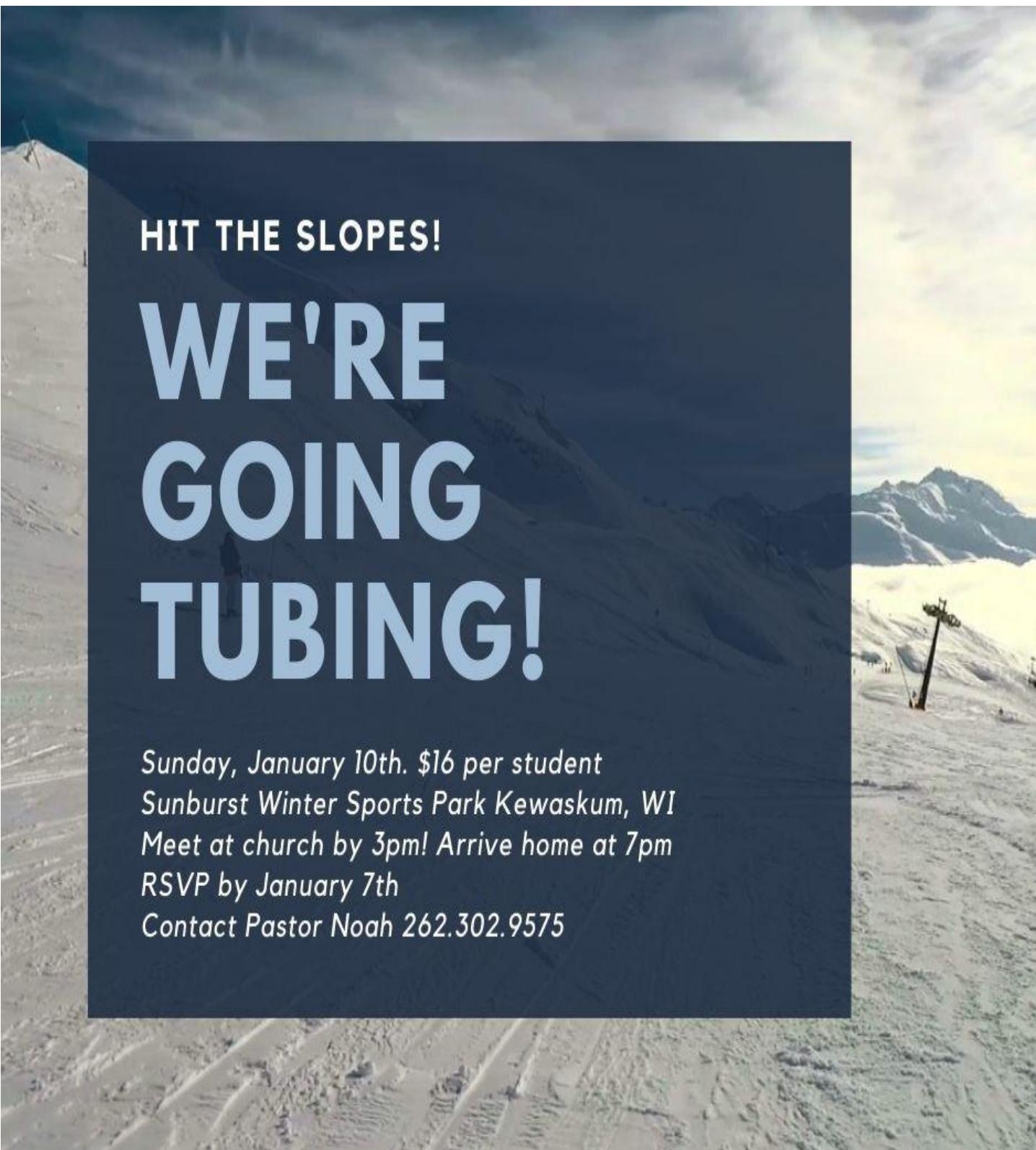
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
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St. Louis, MO 63166-6861

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Mission Central
40718 Highway E 16
Mapleton, IA 51034

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HIT THE SLOPES! WE'RE GOING TUBING!

*Sunday, January 10th. \$16 per student
Sunburst Winter Sports Park Kewaskum, WI
Meet at church by 3pm! Arrive home at 7pm
RSVP by January 7th
Contact Pastor Noah 262.302.9575*

January 2021

Monthly Planner

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 5:00 PM Worship
3 8:00 AM Worship 9:15 AM Bible Class and Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship	4 9:00 AM Quilters	5 6:00 PM Board of Christian Education	6	7 10:00 AM Bible Class 6:00 PM Finance 6:10 PM Bells 6:30 PM Public School Confirmation 7:30 PM Choir	8	9 7:00 AM Mens Bible Breakfast 5:00 PM Worship
10 8:00 AM Worship 9:15 AM Bible Class and Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship 3:00 PM Youth Tubing	11	12 6:00 PM Council	13 11:00 AM Widows Lunch	14 10:00 AM Bible Class 6:10 PM Bells 6:30 PM Public School Confirmation 7:30 PM Choir	15	16 5:00 PM Worship
17 8:00 AM Worship 9:15 AM Bible Class and Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship	18 9:00 AM Quilters	19 6:30 PM Divine Connections	20	21 10:00 AM Bible Class 6:10 PM Bells 6:30 PM Public School Confirmation 7:30 PM Choir	22	23 9:37 AM Mens Bible Breakfast 5:00 PM Worship
24 8:00 AM Worship 9:15 AM Bible Class and Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship	25 6:30 PM Ladies Guild	26 6:30 PM Elders	27	28 10:00 AM Bible Class 6:10 PM Bells 6:30 PM Public School Confirmation 7:30 PM Choir	29	30 5:00 PM Worship
31 8:00 AM Worship 9:15 AM Bible Class and Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship						
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