



The Monthly Herald

January 2025

A Happy New Year

Sing to the Lord a New Song for he has done Marvelous things. Psalm 98:1

I pray you all had a wonderful year! I pray that you are hoping for a great year to come! Do you remember your hopes and dreams for the year we just had? I know it certainly didn't go the way I expected! There were triumphs and joys for sure. Students were able to graduate and move on to their next steps. Couples became married. Promotions were given, and jobs well done were congratulated. But there were also a lot of struggles, a lot of failures. A lot of sickness, and yes sadly even a lot of death. It was a year full of ups and downs. It was a year that I had not written for myself. It was a year outside of my control.

I am willing to bet that next year will be the same. Yes we all do have hopes and dreams for the next year. We have already made some plans, and set some goals. But life never goes exactly as we planned it. There are highs and joys that we could never have imagined that await us this next year. There will be challenges and struggles to get through that we will not have foreseen. There will be griefs and sorrows that we will wish we could have avoided. We have no clue what lies ahead to be perfectly honest.

So what am I saying? That we should set aside our plans, and give up on our hopes and dreams? By no means! Make plans, have goals these things are good and proper to do. However, do not get so set on them that you miss out on what God has planned for you this year. We can become so set on our ways that we refuse to see what he is doing. He already knows what this year is going to look like, and he promises that all things work together for the good of those who love him. (Romans 8:28). It is he who gives us the joys that we could not have expected. It is he who gives us the challenges to grow us, and the strength to get through them. It is he who comforts us when we mourn, and teaches us to rely on him for all things. Indeed that is his goal, his New Year's Resolution if you will, that you may know him better at this time next year than you do now. And if you trust in him this year through it all, and seek to see what he is doing I promise you you will.

The Psalmist wrote sing to the Lord a new song for he has done marvelous things. He truly has done marvelous things in this last year, in the triumphs and the defeats, in the challenges and the ease, the joys and the sorrow. He is in every aspect of our lives working his wonders. Forgiving us our sins, teaching us who he is, showing us his strength and his love. So even if this year didn't go for you the way you wanted, trust it went the way he needed it to. If next year begins to go unexpectedly (and it will!) trust that he is directing the year to go according to his plan, which is far greater than ours. Our plans have temporary benefits- a vacation gives momentary respite, a promotion gives a little more money, lost weight gives a little more health. His plan is for us to make it to heaven for all eternity. That is the plan that will bring lasting gain, that is the plan that will bring us true joy. So this year no matter what is going on sing to the Lord for he is doing marvelous things.

Pastor Josh

Bible Studies

Sunday Morning Bible Class: 9:15am in the Fellowship Hall

In January we will continue our Bible study: Nurturing Your Faith: Patient Urgency. It is about sharing your faith, patiently listening to neighbors and friends but also recognizing the urgency of the mission of Christ. We are blessed to know Jesus as our Savior and the One who comes ultimately to take us home to eternal life. In this time, we grow in the faith, are strengthened as people of God, and are equipped to share our greatest treasure with others. We meet in the fellowship hall at 9:15 each Sunday. Please come and invite others to come with you. Hope to see you there.

Thursday Morning Bible Class

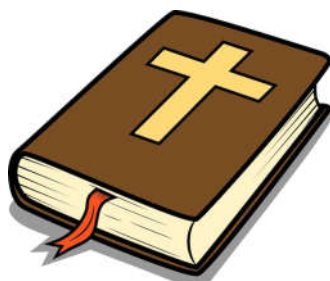
Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians continues to be the topic of our study. In the month of January we will study chapters 9 and 10. In chapter nine, Paul addresses the rights he has as an apostle, yet how he gave up those rights for the furtherance of the gospel. Why give up the rights? So there would be no obstacle in sharing faith in Christ Jesus. Chapter ten delves into warnings against idolatry and moves into the only altar at which God's people should worship: the altar of Christ.

The class meets from 10:00-11:30am each Thursday. There is a wonderful blessing of treats and fellowship with fellow believers. All are welcome to join at any time.

Men's Bible Breakfast

We continue studying "Ten Men of the Bible." In January and February, we will be looking at the lives of two of the most prominent men in the mission field of Christ: the Apostle Peter and the Apostle Paul. These two men are "prototypes" of "saints and sinners," both being examples to follow and at the same time their lives evidence our great need for God's grace. Beginning with Peter, there are so many spiritual lessons to be learned: for our Lord Jesus taught him, Admonished him, and loved him.

In January we meet on the 11th and the 25th. Thursday Morning Bible Class: 10:00am in the Fellowship Hall



Emergency Pastoral Care: 217-779-7985 or
608-290-9837

CHILI COOK OFF

January 12, 2025

Think you make a good chili? Then sign up for the Chili Cookoff!

Like eating chili? Then come try some amazing chili! The youth are putting on a Chili Cookoff to help them go to the National Lutheran Youth Gathering and you are invited! Tickets to attend are 15 dollars per adult and 10 dollars for kids 3-12.

Under 3 is free! If you decide to buy your ticket at the door then it will be 20 dollars per person. With your ticket comes the opportunity to give three votes for your favorite chili! There will be two categories of awards; popular choice and judges choice. Top three chili's of both categories will be rewarded.

So please sign on up either to make the Chili or to attend!

Contact Pastor Josh if you have any questions.



Ladies Groups

Widows Lunch

All widows in the congregation are invited to lunch at Open Flame 5081 S. 108th Street on January 8th at 11:00am.



Quilter's Patch

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!!

Praying everyone had a wonderful Christmas and New Year celebration. It's now time to get back to work creating warm comfy quilts. Even if you do not sew or Monday mornings are hard for you, there are other ways you can help. We are always searching the thrift stores for gently used non-white poly/cotton flat sheets. We do not use flannel or Microfiber. We use Thrivent project grants to purchase the batting and other supplies like 45mm rotary blades, thread and cotton fabric (wide back and solids).

Our group meets on the 1st, 3rd and 5th Mondays at 9:00am until 11:30am. Below are the dates during January thru March we will meet in the fellowship hall.

January 6^h and 20th

February 3rd and 17th

March 3rd, 17th and 31st

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

Happy New Year!!!!

The Advent by Candlelight was enjoyed by all that attended. A total of \$437.50 was collected for the radio broadcast. A huge thank you to the Jo, Rosie, Cheryl and Karen for all their work organizing the event. In a few months we will begin planning the next one.



The baby bottles are out in the narthex for the annual fund raiser for A Place of Refuge. Let's see if we can surpass last year's collection of \$1809.

Our next meeting is Monday, January 27th at 6:30pm

For additional information you can contact Dawn Ziolecki at cell, text, 414-841-6097 or dzwolf2012@gmail.com OR Toni Dunn at cell, text, 414-335-3553 or tdunnusa@outlook.com



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Subscribe to our channel! Watch our worship services and devotions! We will have worship services on-line for about 6 months and special services (Christmas, Easter etc) for 1 year.

<https://www.facebook.com/stpaulwa/> Access Facebook for church and school updates, video announcements, school chapels, and devotions! Visit our Website! www.splcwa.org Support our ministry through online giving! Stay up-to-date on our activities! Our weekend worship services are broadcast on TWO radio stations each Sunday at 8:00am. "JOY" 1340 AM and 98.7 FM

Sharing God's Bounty

Being a Faithful Steward

As stewards, we demonstrate our faithfulness by how we manage the resources and gifts God entrusts to us. *"Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful"* (1 Corinthians 4:2). We are to *"always give [ourselves] fully to the work of the Lord because [we] know that our labor in the Lord is not in vain"* (1 Corinthians 15:58). Our effort is invested in the Lord's winning cause.

Peter wrote, *"Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms"* (1 Peter 4:10). Through faith, we serve others by showing our love (3 John 5-6), by witnessing for Christ (Acts 1:8), by sharing with those in need (2 Corinthians 9:7-8), and by doing good to all people (Galatians 6:10). God is pleased when we use our time, talents, and treasures in ways that give Him honor and glory through our service for others.

As devoted and committed stewards who seek to do God's will, we receive his special blessings. The Lord will *"bring to light what is hidden in darkness and will expose the motives of men's hearts. At that time each will receive his praise from God"* (1 Corinthians 4:5). In 1 Samuel 26:23 we read, *"The Lord rewards every man for his righteousness and faithfulness."* We look forward to the Lord telling us, *"Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!"* (Matthew 25:23).

Until the Lord takes us to our eternal home, we are to be active and involved stewards faithfully seeking to please him. We can be faithful because he abounds *"in love and faithfulness"* (Psalm 86:15) to us. We press on as faithful stewards knowing that *"He will not forget [our] work and the love [we] have shown him . . ."* (Hebrews 6:10).

"My mother drew a distinction between achievement and success. She said that achievement is the knowledge that you have studied and worked hard and done the best that is in you. Success is being praised by others and that's nice too, but not as important or satisfying. Always aim for achievement and forget about success."

Helen Hayes



The counsel of the LORD stands
forever,
the plans of His heart to all

Music Notes

For the last few months of 2024 we looked at hymns that were in the first Lutheran hymnals, published in 1524. The hymnals of the 16th century were popular among people because they were in German and affordable—they cost less than a German New Testament—so people used them for family devotions. While used in worship, they were used just as much if not more for “constant exercise and meditation” and by parents in teaching their children.

We have access to just about any kind of media we want these days, but sometimes we don’t realize the riches in those that have been around for years. There are outlines that can be used for daily devotions in the Lutheran Service Book (LSB 294), Lutheran Worship, the previous hymnal (LW 293), and in the children’s hymnal All God’s People Sing (AGPS 8, and following). In each of these, the Small Catechism follows the devotional section. LSB and LW, as well as The Lutheran Hymnal (TLH) all have a large collection of psalms in the front section of the hymnal. And of course, each is full of hymns.

So you could use the devotional outlines, or read a short section of the catechism, or sing or read a hymn or psalm. Meditate on your readings. Or do a combination of these. Set a pattern that’s comfortable for you and your family. Or switch it up and do something different each time.

So dig up one of your hymnals—or make an investment in one. Start a new habit this new year, a habit that will bless you and your family in years to come.

Many thanks to all who provided music during the Advent and Christmas seasons!

Singers

The Adult Choir

All the Children Choirs

School and ECC Children

The Praise Team

Soloists

Instrumentalists

Brass, Woodwind, Strings, Percussion

Adult Bells

Jr. Bells

Chimes

Organists and Pianists

Deaconess Carole

Youth News

Youth Movie Night January 19th .

Mr. Balsman and Pastor Josh are hosting a movie day at Pastor Josh's house for all youth from 8th -12th grades. We will be watching the Fellowship of the Ring extended edition! Needless to say we are very excited about it. The movie will start at 2 pm. Bible Study and dinner will follow the movie. Boys bring snacks, girls bring drinks to share! Also if you have any bean bags or comfortable seating please bring that as well. Contact Pastor Josh if you need his address, and to let him know if your child is coming so he can get enough food!

