



The Mountain Top Echo

Mt. Moriah Lutheran Church, Byron MN

Reaching Out ... Sharing Christ January 2024

Living in the Christmas Glow

The celebration of Christmas is completed. The tree and all its decorations will soon be taken down and put away for another year. The gifts themselves have been opened, admired, and put away or even used quite a bit. I remember one gift I was given so long ago, a hard Plastic Jet Pilot's helmet which had a speaker and was used a lot, till something broke. If the tree is natural, it will be put on the corner to be picked up by some organization who recycles them or the city itself. The reminders of Christmas are slowly leaving our lives. It is time to get on with life, go back to school or some other project or even getting ready for spring activities. Or is it?

Celebrating the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ as the Babe of Bethlehem is not just a one night or one day affair. It is not just celebrated through the children's or grandchildren's Christmas programs that have completed and celebrated, or the parties that we have attended, or even the gathering of family and friends on Christmas Day. It is not just celebrated for the "Twelve Days of Christmas" following the joyous event of Christ's birth on Christmas Day. But it is a day of celebration that lives on and on and on in our lives as we remember the fantastic news that the angels shared with the Shepherds and what they saw at Bethlehem.

Celebrating the Lord's birth is a tremendous opportunity. All we need to do to be reminded of this is recall Simeon who waited and waited to "see" the Lord's gift of redemption, rescue, and salvation in the baby Jesus. As he witnessed the child through his eyes of faith, he saw more than just a baby, he saw the Lord Christ on a cross, salvation, redemption, rescue for all people, Gentiles, and Jews alike. ***"For my eyes have seen Your salvation, which You have prepared in the sight of all people."*** (Luke 2:30-31) What a beautiful sight, a wonderful piece of good news that is to be shared with us and all people.

We join Simeon in seeing the Lord Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior. We see this Babe of Bethlehem as the One who has redeemed us, rescued us from our sins, and given us eternal life. It is this Lord Jesus whom we see through the eyes of faith, it is this Lord Jesus that we celebrate with joy in our hearts and praise on our lips. Even as we face uncertain times in our lives and in our congregation of Mount Moriah Lutheran Church, we do know with certainty that we will stand tall with the fantastic news that God has sent us salvation in the Lord Jesus, one who will never leave us nor forsake us. This is the celebration of joy that we live in each and every day of our lives.

May this celebration and glow of the Christ child remain in your hearts and lives as you live you live your life amidst all your joys and sorrows, triumphs and defeats, pleasures, and afflictions. May this celebration of Christ, the Savior of the world, cause you to live in the glow of Christmas! May His peace and joy abound in your lives this day and always.

The Lord's everlasting peace,

Pastor Scott Fiege



The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

LCMS Stewardship Ministry – lcms.org/stewardship Newsletter Article – January 2024

The Chief Stewards of Humanity: Mom and Dad

St. Paul tells the Ephesians that the first commandment with a specific promise attached to it is, “Honor your father and mother so that it may go well with you, and you may live long in the land” (Eph. 6:2). This promise is one indication of the importance of this commandment. The other thing that highlights the special nature of this commandment is its placement within the Ten Commandments.

The Ten Commandments are clearly organized in two big categories. The first three commandments deal with our relationship with God. This category is called the First Table of the Law. The last seven commandments, the Second Table of the Law, tell us how we should relate to other people. These two tables correspond to what Jesus calls the two greatest commandments: “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind,” and “You shall love your neighbor as yourself” (Matt. 22:37–39).

The order of the Second Table of the Law is also important. Murder is a greater sin than adultery, which is a greater sin than stealing, or lying, or coveting. But why is the Fourth Commandment first in the Second Table, ahead of “you shall not murder”? Is disobeying your parents really worse than murder? Or maybe we should give up on thinking these commandments are ordered?

The overall effect of this order is to get us to see our parents as a connection point between our neighbors and our God. Throughout our upbringing our father and mother stand between us and God and deliver His gifts to us: God clothes us, feeds us, protects us, and teaches His Word to us through our parents.

So, parents have a very high calling from God. They are called to be stewards of the greatest gift: the gift of life.

Parenting thus gives us a keen insight into all our stewardship. Parents know that they have been given a great treasure in their children, a treasure that does not belong to them, yet for which they feel a great deal of responsibility. Truth be told, every gift we have been given is like this, because everything we have — whether our own personal skills and powers or our wealth and time — is all from God. He entrusts it all to us so that we can use it all and take care of it all for His great purposes.



Electronic Giving: Our church invites you to consider our electronic giving program as a way to automate your regular weekly offerings. Electronic giving is convenient for you and provides much needed consistency for our church. If you are interested in participating in this program, speak with financial secretary, Tammy Vosberg. You may also contact Tammy with any questions at 507- 289-2850 or via email at dtvosberg@gmail.com



The next **LWML meeting** will be announced at a later date.



Prayer Chain: Ardi Gibbs is our Prayer Chain Leader. Please contact Ardi with your prayer requests or if you would like to join the prayer chain team. (507) 254-6564 / ardig775@gmail.com

JANUARY Birthdays

JANUARY Anniversaries

Kaleb Klepel	January 5
Keith Richardson	January 6
Jackie Richardson	January 8
Dennis Karst	January 9

No January Anniversaries!

Special dates

- New Year's Day, *January 1, 2024*
- Epiphany, *January 6, 2024*
- Baptism of the Lord, *January 7, 2024*
- Martin Luther King Jr. Day, *Jan. 15, 2024*
- Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, *Jan. 18-25, 2024*



The heart of our faith



“Christianity affirms that at the heart of reality is a Heart, a loving Father who works through history for the salvation of his children. Man cannot save himself, for man is not the measure of all things and humanity is not God. Bound by the chains of his own sin and finiteness, man needs a Savior.”

—Martin Luther King Jr.



We could use maybe one more reader volunteer for worship services. One of our current volunteers will be out of town for the winter, so an additional volunteer would really help out. We are only talking about once a month or so, but more often during Advent and Lent seasons. You will be asked about your availability the month before you are scheduled. The Church Secretary, Marilyn, does the scheduling. She can be reached at 507-775-2460 or email: secretary@mtmoriahluth.org Thanks!



Fun Fact

January is named after Janus, the ancient Roman god of gates and doors symbolizing endings, beginnings, and transitions. He's depicted with two heads: one head looking at the past and the other at the future.



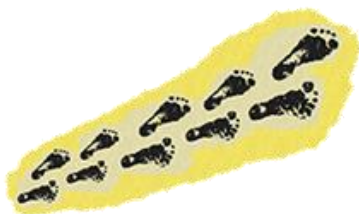
“Two ships” ---From ‘New Year’ by Ella Wheeler Wilcox

The year, like a ship in the distance
comes over life's mystical sea.
We know not what change of existence
'tis bringing to you or to me.
But we wave out the ship that is leaving
and we welcome the ship coming in,
although it be loaded with grieving,
with trouble, or losses, or sin. ...



The new ship comes nearer and nearer,
we know not what freight she may hold.
Hope stands at the helm there to steer her;
our hearts are courageous and bold.
Sail in with new joys and new sorrows.
Sail in with new banners unfurled.
Sail in with unwritten tomorrows.
Sail in with new tasks for the world.

Resolve to go micro



Most New Year's resolutions are so major they seem made to be broken. Maybe that's why “micro-resolution” is the latest January buzzword. Setting smaller goals is more realistic and helps ensure follow-through, according to experts. People who try setting micro-resolutions say that approach is more positive and leads to longer-lasting change. For example, instead of attempting to lose 30 pounds this year, make a micro-resolution to walk 10 minutes twice per day and to snack on fresh fruit at least once a day.

Micro-resolutions can also be helpful in matters of faith. If aiming to read the entire Bible in one year feels overwhelming, take five minutes each morning and evening to read a brief devotional or pray. If joining your church's missions committee isn't possible, try to talk to one new person each week about your faith or church. May God bless you as you take small steps that add up to big impact this year!

Worship Assistant Schedule for January 2024	Altar Guild for Month of January – Kim Amundson
1/7/2024 – 1st Sun. after the Epiphany/ Baptism of Our Lord Worship w/Communion - 10:45 a.m. Pastor Fiege	Elder – Shane Amundson Reader – Shelley Arett Music – Dave Welsh
1/14/2024 – 2nd Sunday after the Epiphany Worship – 10:45 a.m. Pastor Fiege	Elder – Brant Klepel Reader – Shelley Arett Music – Margaret Karst
1/21/2024 – 3rd Sunday after the Epiphany Worship w/Communion – 10:45 a.m. Pastor Fiege	Elder – Don Vosberg Reader -- David Welsh Music – Ruth Benning
1/28/2024 – 4th Sunday after the Epiphany Worship – 10:45 a.m. Pastor Fiege	Elder – Brant Klepel Reader – Dave Welsh Music – Dave Welsh

The Three Kings

A Q A F R M L J S N Y K Z U M Z Y K C E V Y K
 X Y V D T P L D A S M Y R R H B F P K R N V Q S M D
 C T Y Q G C V J C V Y K P M L Z P M R N V Q U O
 Z P K L N X Q B J H I D P C Y Z P S C M A E B R
 I F O W C S L E M A C B I R O H P U Q T G E B E
 H E D P C M N O D S J O A T J R I Y U A A J A H
 L K U C U K E S G P T M O O A J P R M L B R L D
 B W K I K S N L Y P X W O J M F F O E I B J T S
 H N D P A T T H C O W B B J C G H Y G E A H H J
 J F F C F V A V H W U D A U N A Y V I P A Q
 D I Q I Y P O O R K I F L R N A M Q V C U I S P
 G E A V E N P H W G L O A O Q K S A E I F Z A Z
 A M T V L H A R G H G D R S I O G G Z V C A R G
 C Q I J Q Y W H B O X O F Z F Y A E M Z G N R M
 N N W Q I S E U P X A C M P J S P U I J D C Q Q
 I Y I Y Z U I C T I I P T L P G J O S E P H G R
 N P V O Q Q V R N R P O J A M Z D D H D F U H C
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 F Z H T N Z O I M Z G N Y C O D O X L Q T D U Y
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 K O F L S U E N Y A C E X H A C G Y A S C J D G
 C J D U U E S N E C N I K N A R F N X T C O W Y
 C H X A S K J K T R B G M N W D Y A L I D M B I

homage star Joseph Mary
 Jesus Herod camels epiphany
 myrrh gold frankincense Gaspar
 Melchior Balthasar Magi



JANUARY WORD SEARCH



C	L	X	R	F	U	M	A	R	T	I	N
M	P	H	N	J	Y	R	A	U	N	A	J
E	T	I	H	W	F	Q	F	R	O	S	T
L	Q	F	S	N	O	W	F	L	A	K	E
E	T	A	N	R	E	B	I	H	T	J	O
K	R	B	L	O	N	I	U	G	N	E	P
R	E	L	L	A	B	W	O	N	S	N	R
H	T	U	F	G	C	F	K	G	U	O	F
D	N	T	S	N	N	A	M	W	O	N	S
E	I	H	N	I	G	M	J	L	R	U	L
I	W	E	O	K	J	N	E	T	T	I	M
L	D	R	W	P	C	O	L	D	N	D	L

January
 snow
 Martin
 Luther
 King
 Jr
 penguin
 snowman
 cold
 mitten
 snowball
 snowflake
 frost
 hibernate
 winter
 white



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