

January

2021



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**OUR LORD'S
LUTHERAN CHURCH**

Called to share Christ's Love with all

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

"Christianity is, above all, a way of seeing. Everything else in Christian life flows from and circles around the transformation of vision."

Robert Barron

Beloved People of God,

As we join the world in welcoming a new year, we look forward to a safer, healthier year. Every year, we make resolutions and anticipate that things will be different. But, this year those feelings are stronger. We are coming through the crisis and it has helped us sort out our priorities. Now, in this new year we can make plans to do what matters most. New beginnings allow us to develop in ways that enhance life. So, too, in the church, we enter a season in which our lives can be fuller because we look at life in a new way. Jesus is the lens through which we look at each person, place, and activity that enters our lives. Because Jesus came to earth, we anticipate that each encounter we have carries the potential to bear the grace of God. These weeks of January can reveal much to us. As we remember and celebrate the coming of the magi, the baptism of Jesus, and his early ministry, God will help us see it all in a new way so that our life of faith may grow.

**A New Year.
A new way of seeing.
May we all be transformed.**

Pastor Kratzer

THE SPIRIT OF OUR LORD'S NEWS

January, 2021 Volume 55, No. 1

**A PUBLICATION OF OUR LORD'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
WWW.OURLORDS.ORG**

The Year of Mark

Many of our Gospel readings in worship will come from Mark this year. The Gospel of Mark is ancient. Yet, since readers still find it relevant, we sometimes forget that it was written in Greek around the year 70 C.E. The world it was composed for was an oral world. Often this book was read out loud to groups gathered around the storyteller. Very few copies of it existed and those were handwritten. So, people did not sit and read it silently.

The Gospel of Mark was written somewhere in the Mediterranean world and combines stories of and about Jesus. It is not an objective account of the historical Jesus. Those who have already been persuaded by the good news of and about Jesus are telling this story to persuade others. It is a story of people in conversation with God. It is a story of those who speak for God in conversation with those who are listening for God. The settings, characters, plot, and rhetoric give us a narrative with rich theological dimensions.

Although my favorite Bible story comes from the Gospel of Luke, my favorite Gospel is Mark. It is fast paced, has dramatic contrasts, nestles stories inside of other stories, and moves from one scene to another abruptly and with little commentary. One of my seminary professors memorized the whole thing and told it to us. We got to hear it in one sitting. Mark wants us to hear. He wants us to hear who Jesus really is. He wants us to understand so that our lives may be transformed by the one who gave his life for us.



Jesus gave his life for us when he came to earth as a vulnerable human being. He emptied himself of his heavenly status and became humble. Then, walking among us, he learned how to form a community that shared its thoughts and struggles, hopes and dreams. So, this month, while the weather outside is frightful, pick up the Gospel of Mark. Read it from beginning to end, and pay special attention to those disciples of his. Learn from them how to listen to Jesus. Learn from them how to be drawn into a small group that opens you to new relationships and shapes your life.

No matter how young or how old you are, Jesus is always ready to teach us something new.

Pastor Kratzer

Scriptures for Worship Services

Saturdays at 5 PM & Sundays at 8 AM

All services will be online only during the month of January.

January 2 & 3

2nd Sunday of Christmas
Jeremiah 31:7-14
John 1:10-18
“Flesh”

January 10 & 11

Baptism of Our Lord
Gen 1:1-5
Mark 1:4-11
“Water”

January 16 & 17

2nd Sunday after Epiphany
1 Sam 3:1-10 [11-20]
John 1:43-51
“Ears and Eyes”

January 23 & 24

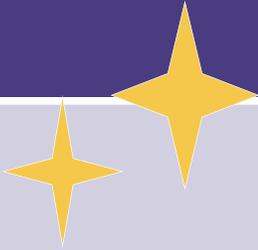
3rd Sunday after Epiphany
Jonah 3:1-5, 10
Mark 1:14-20
“Caught in the Net”

January 30 & 31

4th Sunday after Epiphany
Deuteronomy 18:15-20
Mark 1:21-29
“Forceful Language”



CHURCH BUSINESS



Sunday, January 31, 2021
12:15 PM via ZOOM



ANNUAL MEETING

For the first (and hopefully only) time, our annual meeting will be conducted in a virtual format. In addition to looking back at 2020, we will preview our hopes and priorities for a post-pandemic 2021. Electronic versions of the 2020 annual report and meeting agenda will be sent in mid-January. Hard copies will also be available in the Life Center foyer. The link listed below will be used to access our meeting. As we approach the end of January, members will be reminded of the following information, and dial-in instructions will also be provided.

<https://lewisclark.zoom.us/j/93925730745?pwd=K3pKMxJIM21zWWZOCENpQTBEVGJzZz09>
Meeting ID: 939 2573 0745 Passcode: OLLC

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN UPDATE

*Worship Center will be under construction beginning January 18, availability and use will be limited.
Contact the church office for access.*

Restoring OUR LORD'S House

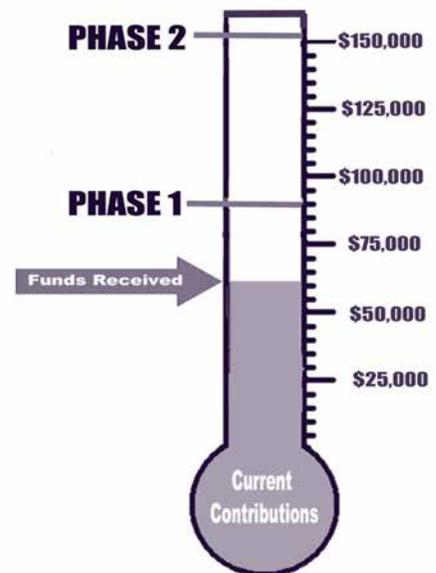
Progress & Contribution Update

Drywall repair, painting, and flooring installation for several areas of the Worship Center will begin the middle of January! Extra help will be needed to move furniture and make minor repairs before work begins Jan. 18. Your physical assistance is needed! Work days include Jan. 2, 9, & 16.

The flooring for the kitchen, restrooms, rear hall, youth room, and fellowship hall has been purchased but the installation cannot begin until the kitchen remodel is complete. **We need your financial support before we can order the cabinetry and begin work in the kitchen.**

*Through your generous support we can
Restore OUR LORD'S House!*

And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose -- Romans 8:28



Funds received as of 12/27/20
\$61,491

Contributions to "Restoring OUR LORD'S House" can be made by writing a check payable to Our Lord's, note "Restoring OUR LORD'S House" in the memo line, arranging a withdrawal from your personal checking or savings account, or making an online contribution by going to the church website www.OurLords.org

Getting to Know Olivia Cross, OLLC Administrative Assistant

What is your favorite place on earth? For my previous job, I traveled to conventions quite frequently. In 2018, I got to visit New Zealand for over a week for a convention. While I was there, I visited the movie site for Lord of the Rings. Most of my childhood was spent reading these books with my dad, watching these movies with my family on sick days, and pretending to be characters from these movies. I went on all sorts of adventures as Frodo! Visiting the spot where these stories came to life was incredible – it was a beautiful day in every way. The landscapes of New Zealand are incredible – there are vast forests of pine trees covering every mountain, flowers constantly blooming in every yard, and it was sunny every single day I was there! I’ve attached a few pictures I took of the site I visited – I’ll never forget it!



What do you like to do for fun? In my spare time, I raise a variety of tropical plants! When the pandemic began, I felt very disconnected from nature, so I decided to bring it into my house! Owning plants is a different type of “ownership,” it’s not like buying an object from a store. Instead, you get to watch something thrive and grow under your care, and it’s a constant progression (or the plant doesn’t do so well...)! It’s very fulfilling, both because I see nature every day in my house and essentially in every square inch of my bedroom, and also because it has brought me many online connections with other houseplant enthusiasts – I have met some very nice people because of plants!

Tell us a little about your family. My parents are both professors at Mount Mercy University in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. My father teaches philosophy and ethics, and my mother teaches organic chemistry. They also homeschooled me up until college, so they have a LOT of patience! I have an older brother named Joshua and a younger sister named Laura. Both inherited a rare genetic condition that manifested in severe symptoms from an early age —Joshua died when he was 2 years old, and Laura is physically disabled and lives with my parents in Iowa. I did not inherit the gene, so I am perfectly healthy. So, my family is a little different, I suppose! We are used to driving everywhere, as my sister’s wheelchair is not easy to get through airport security!

What is your work history? I have a degree in music theory from the University of Missouri, Saint Louis. I used that to teach voice and piano for several years during my undergraduate degree, as well as immediately after graduation. I also sang in several paid ensembles on a regular basis before the pandemic began, and hope to sing regularly at Our Lord’s in the future! I worked at Opera Theatre Saint Louis on Front of House staff for many years (and hope to continue to do so seasonally once in-person performances resume), and also have worked at the Repertory Theatre of Saint Louis on the Box Office staff. For the past 3 years, I worked in customer service, sales, and office management for STL Ocarina – a small business located in St Louis Missouri. They design and produce musical instruments called Ocarinas, which are extremely popular in schools as an alternative to the recorder!

What is your favorite book? I have many! My mother has another degree in English literature, so she made sure to give me many amazing books from an early age! My father also has excellent taste in fantasy and sci fi, so he started me on the Chronicles of Narnia, the Lord of the Rings, and many other fantastic series as soon as I was old enough to read. I would have to say that one of my favorite books is the novel *Phantastes* by George MacDonald – I wrote my college entrance essay for UMSL on this book.

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

Getting to Know John and Kathy Nehrt

Favorite Activity: Travel, especially road trips. We love the National Parks and what they mean to our country and the next generation to enjoy. Kathy stamps her National Parks passport as often as possible. Yellowstone is our favorite. We try to get there every year or two.

Pandemic Favorite Activity: Being outside. We have convenient access to the Madison County trail system and we use it often for riding bikes or walking. John is the official yardman for our lawn and for the lawns of our three adult kids. Kathy enjoys gardening tending to flowers all about the yard. We have small plots of strawberries, raspberries, blackberries, blueberries and asparagus. We add in a few seasonal veggies each summer.

Our Family: We're blessed to have our three adult children all married and living with their families in the St. Louis area. Kathy's father lives mostly independently near us, too. In a normal year, our seven grandchildren, ages 2-13, keep us busy. We enjoy babysitting on a regular basis and getting all of them together often. There's nothing better than cousin time at Grandma and Grandpa's house. The virus has interrupted much of this, but we're hoping to be able to all be together soon!

If you have kids, what do they think you do all day? This question made us laugh. Since we're retired, we're not at work on a daily basis. We'll have to ask our kids and grandkids. Those answers could be interesting!

FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES



TUESDAY TEA

Time: 3:00 PM Central Time
Every week on Tuesday

Tuesday Tea will continue throughout the winter. Even if you have not been a part of it before, you are welcome!

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86839398550?pwd=cTZUVi8ycjNJS296ZnZ4U3ErTGtwQT09>

Meeting ID: 868 3939 8550

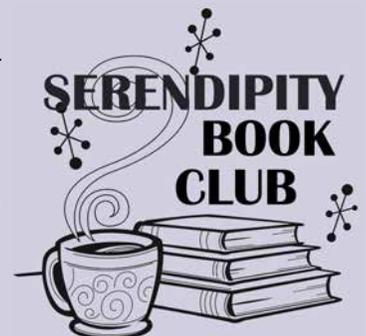
Password: 511171

SERENDIPITY BOOK CLUB & OTHER BOOK LOVERS

I hope that all of you have found many enjoyable books to read during our time off for Covid-19. Who could have imagined in March, 2020 that we would still be fighting this virus in January, 2021?

Pastor Kratzer and I have talked about trying to resume our book club in 2021. Since my technology skills are sketchy at best, Pastor Kratzer is willing to help set up a Zoom meeting. If you are interested in joining a Zoom book club, please let me know by sending me a text or by calling. My numbers are in the directory.

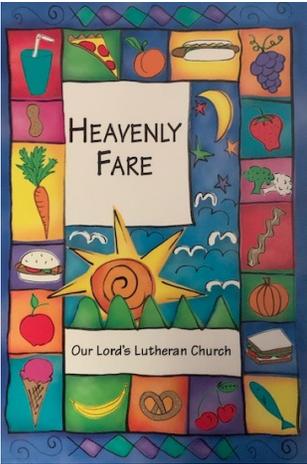
Happy reading,
Elaine Baden



FUNDRAISING UPDATE & EVENTS

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!

Greenery Sales were a hit! The Youth Group made over \$900 through the sale of greenery in 2020. This is the highest total ever. Without your support and generosity this would not have been possible.



Cookbooks of favorite recipes from the kitchens of Our Lord's ladies, past and present were found in the church office. The cookbooks will be for sale at \$5.00 each, while supplies last. All proceeds will be shared with local food pantries.

Cookbooks can be purchased at the church office. The books are available in the Life Center entryway. Please bring exact change or write a check payable to Our Lord's Lutheran Church, add 'cookbook sale' to the memo line.

If you have any questions contact Susanne Richter (618) 667-4767.

Cookbook Sales — all proceeds benefit local food pantries!

EDUCATION MINISTRY

LOVING JESUS...the discussion continues

What does it mean to love God? What does it mean to love Jesus? Join in a discussion of the book *Loving Jesus* by Mark Allan Powell. Powell, a recently retired Lutheran seminary professor, is an internationally known Bible scholar with particular expertise in Matthew and the historical Jesus. He also has a deep love of Jesus. You will find his book both interesting and challenging as we discuss how to "move beyond the old certitudes of a naïve and youthful faith into the less certain but more bracing terrain of a second naivete, a closer walk with Jesus."

We are meeting via Zoom on Tuesday mornings at 10 am. Although we have already begun the study, please send me an email at revkratzer@gmail.com if you would like to participate so that the Zoom meeting information can be sent to you.

I hope you will join us for what should be an interesting and profitable discussion.

Pastor Tom Kratzer

revkratzer@gmail.com



FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old, he will not depart from it. Proverbs 22:6

A special thank you to those who have brought in craft supplies for the Sunday school ministry. Please continue to save your paper towel and any other paper rolls, craft supplies, sewing supplies, along with any other items you think might aid in our preparation of crafts for virtual Sunday School packets. If you have questions or need to have someone pick up the materials, contact Lisa White (contact information available in the church directory) or the church office.

STUDY GROUPS

Morning Glories Bible Study

2nd & 4th Thursday of each month at 10:00 AM

“Journeys With Angels” by Christa von Zychlin

The Bible features numerous encounters with angels who show up on an array of missions, from wielding a sword (Genesis 3:24), to rescuing a child (Genesis 22:11-12), to a mass choir singing, “Glory to God in the highest” (Luke 2:14). Angels are not a major focus of holy Scripture, nor are they ever mentioned in our Christian creeds. Yet they show up with frequently and at pivotal moments in both Old and New Testaments. Church Reformer Martin Luther is quoted as saying, “If you picture the Bible to be a mighty tree and every word a little branch, I have shaken every one of these branches because I wanted to know what it was and what it meant.” In Winter 2021, the Rev. Christa von Zychlin will present the four-part study “Journeys with angels” in which we will shake those biblical branches, watch for angels and listen for God’s calls to action. Session topics:

January: Looking up—New beginnings, awe-full, awesome angels

February: Repentance and route-changing angels

March: Loneliness, abandonment and holy comfort

April: Feasting angels

The Rev. Christa von Zychlin has served Lutheran churches around the world through ELCA Global partnerships. She co-pastors St. Luke Lutheran Church in Albuquerque, New Mexico, where she also loves exploring the spirituality of mountains and deserts.

Bible Crunchers: Wednesdays 3:00-4:00 PM (via Zoom)

Our January Study is titled “Mark’s Gospel from Scratch.”

Week 1 – The Genius of Mark the Evangelist

Week 2 – The Beginning of the Gospel

Week 3 – Jesus the Wonder Worker

Week 4 – Jesus the Prophet

Week 5 – The End of Jesus’ Public Ministry

Week 6 – The End of the Gospel?

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89526311907?pwd=NFAQ5U25oTXE5M2w3dkVFBG02RctIZz09>

Meeting ID: 895 2631 1907

Passcode: 799925

Dial by your location

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

SERVICE TO CONGREGATION

Your help is needed!

Before painting and flooring installation can begin January 18, a great deal of work must be done including moving furniture and emptying spaces. **Your help is needed to make this happen.**

Come willing to move furniture, clean walls, pack boxes, etc. Several areas of the Worship Center must be cleared before work can begin!

Work days include:
January 2 - 8 AM to ?
January 9 - 8 AM to ?
January 16 - 8 AM to ?



2020 Church Directories have arrived!

Physical copies of the Church Directory from Lifetouch are now available *for those who had their picture taken by Lifetouch in January of 2020*. They are now available at the Life Center during normal business hours, Monday-Friday (except for holidays). Please let the administrative assistant know that you would like your directory, and they will bring yours to you. This is the final directory that Lifetouch will be able to complete for us, as they have unfortunately ceased their Church directory operations permanently due to the pandemic. If you did not get your picture taken by Lifetouch but would like a directory, please contact the office.

FINANCIAL NEWS

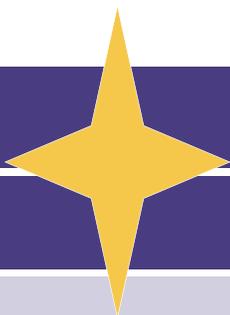
TREASURER'S REPORT

As of November 30, 2020

Total receipts for November 2020	\$43,978	(anticipated budget amount of \$31,167)
Total disbursements for November 2020	\$38,672	(anticipated budget amount of \$31,500)
Total receipts for 2020 as of 11/30/2020	\$425,295	(anticipated budget amount of \$341,763)
Total disbursements for 2020 as of 11/30/2020	\$381,148	(anticipated budget amount of \$345,083)
Mortgage principal paid in November 2021	\$ 2,823	
Total mortgage principal paid in 2021	\$49,856	
Remaining principal on mortgage	\$81,203	
Cash - Unrestricted	\$26,600	(CD \$25,000 matures in December 2021)
Cash - Designated	\$58,053	
Grant – Designated	\$35,693	

Submitted by **Max Eakin** 12/14/2020

OUTREACH MINISTRIES



FAITH IN ACTION

Lesson Learned

Greetings to all as the new year begins. Many of us are happy to see 2020 in the rearview mirror, and I'm certain most of us are feeling at least somewhat optimistic for the coming year. As we begin to pack up the holiday decorations and start working on our resolutions for the future, let's look back to one story of 2020.

Joannie (not her real name) is a single mother to an adult child with disabilities. Joannie is sharp, dedicated to her son's well-being, and on a limited income. She called in the summer of 2020 when she wanted to apply for a discounted rate on her license plate sticker. I was the new Answers on Aging Specialist at CFIA and had been zipping through other online applications for many of our clients, but Joannie's case was different.

Because of her enrollment in some of the state's systems to assist people with disabilities, Joannie had been denied the discount on her license plate sticker. She was ready to try again, and I was highly motivated by my previous successes with other clients. It didn't take long to hit our first obstacles in the online application, but together, we kept at it and called the state repeatedly with each denial of this benefit. Soon we were referred to the Social Security offices because Joannie's son was receiving benefits. We were required to contact her bank and provide documentation well beyond the usual requirements.

As the weeks went on, Joannie taught me a powerful lesson: *together we were better*. She patiently explained her situation to me, and we continued to work through multiple agencies. There were days that we wanted to give up, but we held each other up and persevered. One day, in the heat of the summer, she mentioned that her air conditioning had broken down. Her house was sweltering, so she prioritized keeping her son safe by finding a way to fix that air conditioning.

After months of trying, we finally connected to a state employee who helped us put all the paperwork in order. Joannie was approved for the discount, and we celebrated together. It may seem a small victory, but the experience we shared was my introduction to the mission of CFIA. We coordinate with churches and agencies to serve the people in our community. The year 2020 was challenging in so many ways, but I've learned that ***united together, we can make a difference***. Please join us in 2021: volunteer to work with clients, send us your prayers, contribute monetarily or with your skills. Together we will continue putting our faith into action.

In gratitude, Lisa C. Brennan



LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF



On August 4, 2020, a devastating ammonium nitrate explosion rocked the port of Beirut, killing almost 200 people, injuring more than 6,000, and displacing an astonishing 300,000. On top of the deep human impact, Lutheran World Relief learned that three containers of quilts and kits had been awaiting clearance in the port at the time of the blast.

They were originally told the shipment was lost, and it was news that stung. Hours of time, investments of finances, and thousands of prayers were wrapped up in the 22,500 quilts, 3,500 school kits, 19,500 personal care kits, and 2,250 baby care kits included in those three containers. As they shared our collective grief over this whole situation, they also heard: we will keep going. One quilter said, "Good thing I just oiled my sewing machine." This response, borne out of a deep place of faithfulness and fueled by the love imprinted on hearts by our Creator, was and remains a light in the darkness.



On August 26, LWR staff received an urgent communication from their partners on the ground in Beirut: they finally got access to the port. It appeared at first glance that the three containers were in the one place in the port that provided some small amount of protection from the blast. The containers were damaged — but not completely destroyed, as initially believed. After two weeks of sorting and checking for damage and contamination, nearly the entire shipment was cleared and available for distribution, not only to the originally intended recipients but to people in Beirut who were directly impacted by the blast. Indeed, the discovery that the love of Lutherans would be able to reach our neighbors in Beirut through the thousands of quilts and kits is "a garland instead of ashes" (v3). In the midst of heartache and disaster, good news was delivered to both the people of Beirut and to those in the U.S. whose love would still be shared.

REMINDERS

PRAYER LIST

We want to keep Our Lord's Prayer List as current and viable as possible and we have many in our church family, or people we know, that need prayer. The church office updates the list periodically. If the person for which you have requested prayer has improved enough to come off the prayer list or has passed away, please let the church office know. Thank you for your help.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Reminder: Newsletter Deadline (to submit articles for February's Newsletter): Friday, January 15.

WHEN YOU HAVE CHANGES

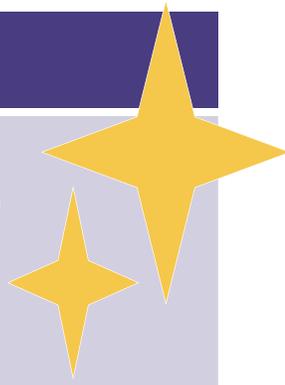
Please let the church office know of changes to e-mail address, mail/resident addresses, telephone numbers, job, college, graduations etc.

PRAYER VENTURES

Two pages of monthly prayer support for ELCA ministries are available in printed copy in our Worship Center and Life Center or accessed at www.elca.org/prayerventures.

CENTRAL SOUTHERN ILLINOIS SYNOD (CSIS) WEB SITE: www.csis-elca.org

ELCA WEB SITE: www.elca.org



January BIRTHDAYS



Joseph Smithies	
Jeremy Lange	Tim Nyland
Gary Sides	Justin Orr
Denise Cigliana	Jo Steele
Bob Rinkle	Alexander Peterson
Mike Williams	Jim Spencer
Nicole Spencer	Sue Kramer
Sarah Endres	Karen Hammond
Rebecca Catelyn Reynolds	Chelsea Lang Litwicki
Mason Treat	Mary "Connie" Reynolds Bradshaw
David Gocken	Cash W. Barnett
Rhonda Comrie	Brittney Mihalich
Donna Beauchamp	Erik Larsen
Beth Giese	Nicole Soehnlín
Drew Klingsick	Lynn Lang
Barbara Carver	Teagan Short

January ANNIVERSARIES

Ronald & Becky Garrison
Dennis & Bonnie Eberle
Robert Valentine & Kris Pineda
Bob & Georgia Rinkel
Greg & Susan Perkins



OUR MINISTRY TEAM

The Rev. Dr. Darla Ann R. Kratzer, Pastor; **Olivia Cross**, Administrative Assistant; **Jacob Davis**, Director of Non-Traditional Music; **Dr. Rhonda Comrie**, Organist; **Chery Sides**, Organist

Church Council

Tom Steinmann, President; **Kathy Hoelscher**, Vice President; **Jaime Henderson**, Secretary; **Dr. Max Eakin**, Treasurer; **Alan Kramer**, At Large; **Darla Ann R. Kratzer**, Pastor

Steering Team

[Worship, Education, Fellowship, Service]
Ed and Laura Foppe, Steering Team Coordinators; **Tim Nyland**, **Lyn Kampwerth**, **Erick Larson**, **Dr. Karen Cummings-Larson**, **Rhonda Comrie**, **Randy Kampwerth**

PRAYER CONCERNS FOR OUR CHURCH FAMILY



PRAY FOR MEMBERS OF OUR CONGREGATION

Rudy Kantola
Jean Weishaupt
Kim Payne
Dan Homes
Linda Spencer
Jim Lemke
Harriet Stensland
Bill Davidson
Dean Lackey

PRAY FOR OUR MILITARY PERSONNEL

Lance Cpl. Clayton Campbell
Major James Carmichael
Capt. Blake Crosby
Airborne Ranger Keegan Crosby
Staff Sgt. Tyson Crosby
SPC Bill Homes
Charles Homes
Zach Huff
A1C Lucas Maue
John Meyer
Zachary Neubauer
Amador Ochoa
Josh Pace
Scott Prengel
Jake Randall
Jack Scoles
PFC Eric Shelton
Staff Sgt. Skipper Smith
Sgt. Matthew Spencer (Ret.)
Staff Sgt. Stephan Spencer
Erica Webb, US Private E-3 (5 month deployment starts
Dec 28, grand daughter of Don and Jackie Schlonat)

PRAY FOR CHURCH FAMILY & FRIENDS

Bobby Wuebold
(Joyce and Fred Tatjenhorst's nephew)

Steve Tatjenhorst
(Joyce and Fred Tatjenhorst's son)

Jeff Blind (Matt Blind's brother)

Laura Hartman (friend of the Nogas)

Ruth Ann Fulton (cousin of Peggy Pick)

Bob Meyer (brother of Mary Ann Fritz)

Larry Neece (friend of Don and Jan Vinson)

Laurie Wallach (friend of Carol Gocken)

Chris Potts (father in law of Cady Thomas)

Beth Klingsick (Don and Glenda's daughter in law)

Dennis Lukaszewski (friend of Kristin Schoenecker)

Pat Davis (friend of Carole Callahan)

Mary Jean Cashdollar (friend of Kathie Brady)

Please remember these members, friends of Our Lord's, and their families as they grieve their loss and share the sure promise of the resurrection:



Harvey Chiles (grieving his friend Don Roderick)

Stephanie Comrie (grieving her grandfather Daniel Kloss)

The family of Peter Wessler

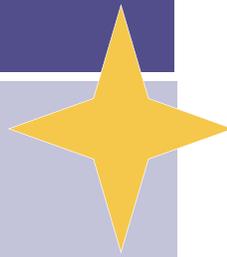
*The family of Richard "Dick" Brendel
(retired pastor, Peace Lutheran Church in Belleville)*

Cady Thomas (grieving her friend Joshua Brumm)

*Bob, Mark, & Jody Bilyeu (grieving their wife and mother
Connie Bilyeu)*

Laurie Hensley (grieving her brother David Hensley)

Pastor Kratzer (grieving her cousin Angie Juven)



Hope for Stability and Safety

South Carolina

Manhal says that the day in June 2009 when Lutheran Services Carolinas (LSC) met him at the airport was the best day of his life. A refugee from Iraq, Manhal says he realized that starting over wouldn't be easy, but with hard work he's forged a career for himself in the Columbia hospitality industry. He began his hotel career doing things that no one really enjoys, like cleaning bathrooms. Some days, he said, he'd go home and cry. But he never doubted that he could make something of himself. Within a year and a half he was promoted to supervisor, and later, he earned his current job as a manager. Manhal is not alone in his success. Dylan Gunnels, a job recruiter for LSC's refugee services program, explained that 96% of LSC's refugee clients in the Columbia area become self-sufficient within the first 180 days of arriving in this country, which means they are getting and maintaining jobs and able to cover their expenses. In the long term, Gunnels said, studies have shown that refugees will eventually contribute more in taxes than they received in relocation benefits and other public assistance. Manhal already has a good hotel job but says he hasn't achieved all of his goals — he aspires to be a general manager one day. "I will never stop dreaming about my future," he said. Gifts to ELCA World Hunger have supported Lutheran Services Carolinas and other ministries as they provide support for refugees who are working to build a new life in a new home.

Hope for Creative and Courageous Leadership

California

For Jamie Stark, a lay mission developer in the Bay Area of California, that call to play a role in God's plan began when he first learned about Holy Communion and the idea of "food as a gateway to God." Inspired by the work he saw in El Salvador, Jamie moved to the Bay Area and cofounded Farming Hope, a farm-to-table job-training nonprofit organization, which is supported by ELCA World Hunger and the Sierra Pacific Synod of the ELCA.

Farming Hope provides transitional employment and job training to unhoused and low income people in the community. As part of the program, participants learn to farm, grow and cook food — job skills and life skills that can help them earn a living to support themselves and their families. Farming Hope works with hiring partners to hire graduates of the program after they complete it. Farming Hope might not look like a church, but as Jamie describes it, "it is a holy place," a place where relationships are formed and community is nurtured while basic vocational needs are met.

Jamie's vision of food as a gateway to God and the restoration of relationships that God intends is at the core of Farming Hope's work. "When I sit at the table at Farming Hope's restaurant in San Francisco (Manny's), if I open my eyes, I see communion exactly as Jesus of Nazareth intended it to be — friends, eating intentionally ... we're all welcome." For Jamie, seeing Holy Communion for what it was — a table at which all are welcome — and being inspired by the work he witnessed in El Salvador fostered hope that, by focusing on relationships built through food, Farming Hope could create opportunities for both jobs and community in San Francisco.

BUILDING USE POLICY DURING THE PANDEMIC

At the present time Our Lord's is permitting groups of 10 people or less to use our classrooms or fellowship halls for meetings. Masks and social distancing must be observed. Leaders of the groups are responsible for disinfecting all areas used during the meetings. Contact the office at (618) 345-5692 or lovetohaveu@ourlords.org to reserve your date and time.



PREVIEW OF COMING EVENTS

Mark your calendars for these upcoming events and special observances. All events are subject to change due to COVID-19.

FEBRUARY

- Education Summit, Feb 1
- Steering Team Retreat, Feb 6
- Valentine's Day, Feb 14
- Transfiguration of Our Lord, Feb 14
- Newsletter Deadline, Feb 15
- Ash Wednesday, Feb 17
- Catechism Class Visit to Lincoln Museum, Feb 20
- Holden Evening Prayer, Feb 24



MARCH

- Holden Evening Prayer, Mar 3, 10, 17, 24
- Daylight Saving Time, Mar 14
- Newsletter Deadline, Mar 15
- St. Patrick's Day, Mar 17
- Palm Sunday, Mar 28

APRIL

- Maundy Thursday, Apr 1
- Good Friday, Apr 2
- Holy Saturday, Apr 3
- Easter Day, Apr 4
- Office Closed, Easter Monday, Apr 5
- Newsletter Deadline, Apr 15
 - Administrative Professionals Day, Apr 21
 - Earth Day, Apr 22

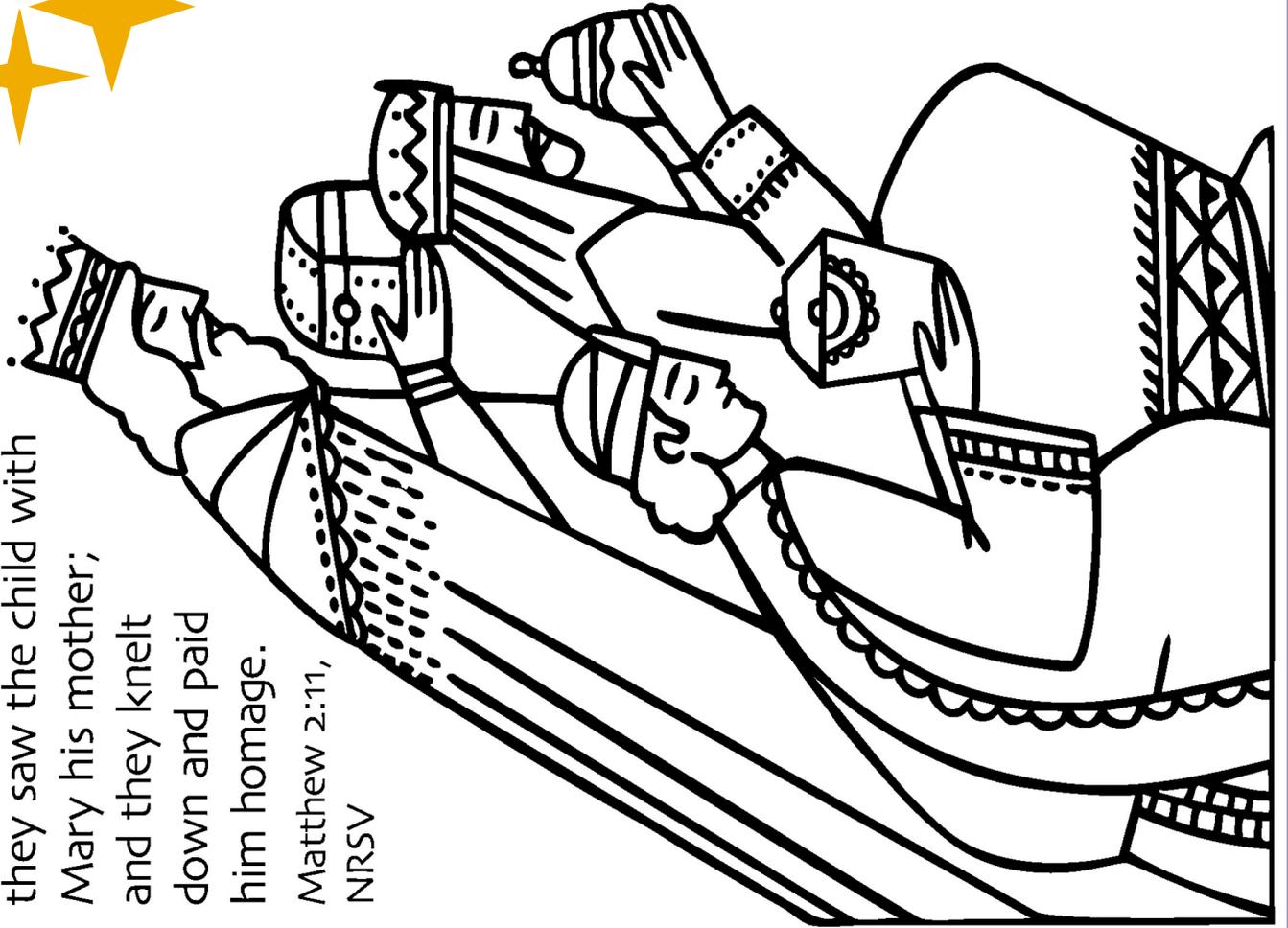
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PUBLIC SAFETY ANNOUNCEMENT

More and more congregations, and ministries are being targeted by scammers and phishing attacks. These emails or text messages often pretend they are a pastor or bishop and ask for private conversation, or to ask for a favor, or to purchase gift cards. These attacks are a phishing or spoofing scam. This means that the email account or phone number has probably NOT been hacked. Attackers are using an alternate email address or phone number and contacts found using A.I. software. This kind of attack is often called CEO Phishing or Business Email Compromise. In 2019, the FBI reported that this is a \$26 billion scam.

On entering the house,
they saw the child with
Mary his mother;
and they knelt
down and paid
him homage.

Matthew 2:11,
NRSV



Puzzle!

Use the code to complete Isaiah's
prophecy about Jesus, our Savior.



CODE:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q

10 23 13 17 14 6 18 21 21
 11 14 12 10 21 21 14 13
 6 24 23 13 14 1 15 4 21
 12 24 4 23 2 14 21 24 1
 22 18 16 17 3 8 16 24 13
 14 5 14 1 21 10 2 3 18 23 16
 15 10 3 17 14 1 25 1 18 23 12 14
 24 15 25 14 10 12 14

I S A I A H 9 : 6 , N I V

Answer: And he will be called Wonderful Counselor,
Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
Isaiah 9:6, NIV

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>January 2021</h1>					1 Church Office Closed-Holiday New Year's Day Pastor's Sabbath	2 Christmas 2 8:00 AM Restoring OUR LORD's House work day - WC 5:00 PM Worship: Praise Service (Livestream)
3 Christmas 2 8:00 AM Worship: Traditional (Livestream) 9:15 AM 6th, 7th, & 8th Grade Confirmation Class - Zoom 10:00 AM High School Sunday Class - Zoom 1:00 PM Private Music Lessons, H. Chiles - WC	4 10:30 AM Staff Meeting 3:00 PM Music Lessons, C. Thomas - WC 6:30 PM Church Council	5 10:00 AM Loving Jesus Book Study - Zoom 3:00 PM Tuesday Tea - Zoom 4:30 PM Music Lessons, C. Thomas - WC 7:00 PM NAR-ANON - LC Conference Room 7:00 PM Narcotics Anonymous - LC Basement	6 Epiphany 3:00 PM Bible Crunchers--Zoom 3:00 PM Music Lessons, C. Thomas - WC	7 10:00 AM People In A Pickle Meeting 1:00 PM Music Lessons, H. Chiles - WC	8 Pastor's Sabbath	9 Baptism of Our Lord Epiphany 1 8:00 AM Restoring OUR LORD's House work day - WC 5:00 PM Worship: Praise Service (Livestream)
10 Baptism of Our Lord 8:00 AM Worship: Traditional (Livestream) 1:00 PM Private Music Lessons, H. Chiles - WC	11 10:30 AM Staff Meeting 3:00 PM Music Lessons, C. Thomas - WC	12 10:00 AM Loving Jesus Book Study - Zoom 3:00 PM Tuesday Tea - Zoom 4:30 PM Music Lessons, C. Thomas - WC 7:00 PM NAR-ANON - LC Conference Room 7:00 PM Narcotics Anonymous - LC Basement	13 3:00 PM Bible Crunchers--Zoom 3:00 PM Music Lessons, C. Thomas - WC 6:30 PM Praise Band Practice & Recording Session - WC	14 10:00 AM Morning Glories 1:00 PM Music Lessons, H. Chiles - WC	15 Newsletter Deadline Pastor's Sabbath	16 Epiphany 2 8:00 AM Restoring OUR LORD's House work day - WC 5:00 PM Worship: Praise Service (Livestream)
17 Epiphany 2 8:00 AM Worship: Traditional (Livestream) 10:00 AM High School Sunday Class - Zoom 1:00 PM Private Music Lessons, H. Chiles - WC	18 Church Office Closed-Holiday Martin L. King, Jr. Day 3:00 PM Music Lessons, C. Thomas - WC Worship Center Under Construction (1/18-2/14) contact office for access	19 10:00 AM Loving Jesus Book Study - Zoom 3:00 PM Tuesday Tea - Zoom 4:30 PM Music Lessons, C. Thomas - WC 7:00 PM NAR-ANON - LC Conference Room 7:00 PM Narcotics Anonymous - LC Basement	20 3:00 PM Bible Crunchers--Zoom 3:00 PM Music Lessons, C. Thomas - WC	21 1:00 PM Music Lessons, H. Chiles - WC 6:30 PM Recovery 360 Family Support	22 Pastor's Sabbath	23 Epiphany 3 5:00 PM Worship: Praise Service (Livestream)
24 Epiphany 3 8:00 AM Worship: Traditional (Livestream) 1:00 PM Private Music Lessons, H. Chiles - WC	25 10:30 AM Staff Meeting 3:00 PM Music Lessons, C. Thomas - WC	26 3:00 PM Tuesday Tea - Zoom 4:30 PM Music Lessons, C. Thomas - WC 7:00 PM NAR-ANON - LC Conference Room 7:00 PM Narcotics Anonymous - LC Basement	27 3:00 PM Bible Crunchers--Zoom 3:00 PM Music Lessons, C. Thomas - WC 6:30 PM Praise Band Practice & Recording Session - WC	28 10:00 AM Morning Glories 1:00 PM Music Lessons, H. Chiles - WC	29 Pastor's Sabbath	30 Epiphany 4 5:00 PM Worship: Praise Service (Livestream)
31 8:00 AM Worship: Traditional (Livestream) 12:15 PM Annual Meeting - Zoom 1:00 PM Private Music Lessons, H. Chiles - WC						



"Called to share Christ's love with all"

"The Spirit of Our Lord's News"

**Our Lord's Lutheran Church
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www.OURLORDS.org**

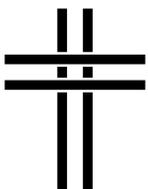
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January 2021 Newsletter

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED